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RESIDENTIAL/FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION BURNING INFORMATION

The Butte County Air Quality Management District (District), in cooperation with local fire protection agencies, provides the following information regarding residential open burning and fire hazard reduction burning. Residential open burning and fire hazard reduction burning refers to the burning of vegetative waste in the open air and **does not** include burning in fireplaces and wood stoves within the residence.

The following requirements apply year-round for all areas of Butte County, including the Cities of Biggs, Chico, Gridley, Oroville, Paradise and areas of Butte County that are within the Lassen and Plumas National Forest. Information regarding open burning requirements is provided on the District's website, www.bcaqmd.org, and on the residential burn line, **530-332-9407** or toll free at **1-855-332-9407**. For more information please contact the District office at **530-332-9400** or toll-free at **1-855-332-9400**.

- Residential open burning and fire hazard reduction burning may only be conducted on a **permissive residential burn day**. Please call **530-332-9407** or toll free at **1-855-332-9407** for information on the burn day status. Burn day status is also posted on the District's website, www.bcaqmd.org.

Do not call your local fire department for burn day information.

- Beginning May 1st, a CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire burn permit will be required. **Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department is asking residents to take advantage of the online burn permitting process, accessed at <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>.**
- Burn hours are as stated on your CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire burn permit. At other times of the year when burning is allowed without a permit, burn hours are from 8:45 a.m. to one hour before sunset.
- Only clean, dry vegetation may be burned on the property on which it was grown. **It is illegal to burn any non-vegetative material**, including, but not limited to the following: paper products, painted/treated lumber, garbage, tires, trash, plastic, metal, rubber, cotton, wool, petroleum products, paint, other similar smoke or toxic-fume producing items, and fireworks.
- Vegetative waste greater than six (6) inches in diameter must be allowed to dry for a minimum of thirty (30) days after cutting or pruning; vegetative waste less than or equal to six (6) inches in diameter must be allowed to dry a minimum of fifteen (15) days.

- In order to minimize smoke production, all vegetative waste must be dry and reasonably free of dirt, soil, visible surface moisture and shall be arranged in a manner to allow air to circulate freely.
- The use of burn barrels is prohibited.
- You are legally responsible for the smoke generated by your burn. Burning must not be conducted when wind may carry smoke into a nearby populated area and create a public nuisance.
- Burning should not be conducted when specific weather conditions (particularly wind) are such that the burning may not be considered safe.
- The property owner and any person burning are individually and collectively responsible for all burn regulations. Persons doing the burning will be held liable if the burn escapes their control.
- The following requirements apply to all open burning when burn permits are required:
 - The pile size may not exceed four (4) feet in diameter (note that Paradise Fire permits have different requirements; refer to your permit for this information). All areas within ten (10) feet of the pile must be free and clear of all vegetation and flammable material.
 - A responsible adult must be in attendance of the fire at all times until the fire is dead out.
 - You must have enough water available to extinguish the fire if needed.
- If burning on a lot less than one acre in size only, the above requirements and the following additional requirements are applicable year-round on permissive burn days:
 - All open fires shall be located more than 25 feet from the nearest occupied dwelling on any adjacent parcel.
 - The burning of poison oak is prohibited.

Special Conditions –Magalia/Upper Ridge Area During the months of January through April (or until fire season is declared) residential open burning shall only be conducted in areas north of Wycliff Way/Perry Road from the 1st through the 15th of each month, and south of Wycliff Way/Perry Road from the 16th through the last day of the month. No geographical restrictions apply to lots one acre in size or greater.

Special Conditions –Chico Sphere of Influence Residential open burning is prohibited on lots less than 0.90 acres in size in the unincorporated areas of Butte County which are within the Chico Sphere of Influence (SOI). Contact the District office or view the map at <https://bcaqmd.org/wp-content/uploads/City-of-Chico-Map-Sphere-of-Influence-Jan.-19.pdf> if you are unsure if you reside within the SOI.

CAL FIRE/BUTTE COUNTY FIRE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the aforementioned District requirements, CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire requirements also apply when burn permits are required. Please refer to your burn permit to be certain that you are familiar with the requirements, including burn hours. **Due to current public access restrictions, if you need a permit or have any questions, please place phone calls to these stations, do not show up in person.**

UNINCORPORATED AREAS

CAL FIRE Burn Permits are only for within the State Responsibility Area (SRA), or where CAL FIRE has jurisdictional authority. For information and permits required outside the SRA / CAL FIRE jurisdiction, contact your local City/County fire authority (information provided below).

Fire Agency Permits are required from May 1st to the end of declared fire season annually (not valid during burn ban). No fee. Burn permits obtained online: <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>

CITY OF CHICO

City of Chico Fire Department: (530) 897-3400 or (530) 897-4900 (afterhours)

No residential/dooryard burning allowed. Please see above for information regarding burning within the unincorporated areas of Butte County which are within the Chico Sphere of Influence.

CITY OF BIGGS

City of Biggs Fire Department/California Department of Forestry (CAL FIRE): (530) 868-5834

Permits required year-round. No fee required.

CITY OF GRIDLEY

City of Gridley Fire Department/California Department of Forestry (CAL FIRE): (530) 846-2470

Permits required year round. No fee required.

CITY OF OROVILLE

City of Oroville Fire Department: (530) 538-2480

Permits valid for one calendar year, except during burn ban. \$11.79 fee, available at <https://www.cityoforoville.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=5133>

El Medio Fire Protection District (South Oroville, outside City limits): (530) 533-4484

Permits required year round, valid for one calendar year, except during burn ban. \$10.00 fee, available at El Medio Fire Station, 3515 Myers, Oroville.

TOWN OF PARADISE

Paradise Fire Department: (530) 872-6264

Permit required, \$25.00 fee, available online at <https://www.townofparadise.com/index.php/burn-information-and-permits>. The Town has temporarily suspended the East/West burn restriction. Burning will be allowed on a permissive burn day through May 31st.