



# Fact Sheet

## Fire Hazard Reduction Burning

Butte County Air Quality  
Management District  
629 Entler Avenue, Suite 15  
Chico, CA 95928  
530.332-9400 or 855.332-9400  
[www.bcaqmd.org](http://www.bcaqmd.org)

### **What is Fire Hazard Reduction Burning?**

Burning conducted at multi-unit dwellings, by commercial entities, and on lots equal to or greater than one (1) acre, when done for the purpose of compliance with local fire hazard reduction ordinances. Fire Hazard Reduction burning is regulated by the local, State and federal fire protection agencies and the Butte Air Quality Management District (District).

District Rules do not require an air quality burn permit for Fire Hazard Reduction burning. However, fire protection agencies (Cal-Fire) require a burn permit during certain times of the year (typically May and June). The "Burn Ban", which is declared by Cal-Fire, prohibits burning, typically from July 1 through October 31 of each year. Please contact your local fire station or the main office at (530) 538-7111 with any questions. Burning within incorporated areas of a city or town is also subject to the city/town fire department open burning requirements.

Residential/dooryard open burning is the open burning of vegetative waste on residential lots that are less than one (1) acre in size. Information regarding Residential open burning rules is provided on a separate District Fact Sheet entitled "Residential Open Burning" and on our website at [www.bcaqmd.org](http://www.bcaqmd.org).

### **Why does the District have Fire Hazard Reduction Burning Rules?**

Butte County does not meet the State or federal health based standards for ozone or fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). In order to work toward attaining compliance with the health based standards, the District has adopted rules regarding open burning. The District is also required by State law to have performance standards for Fire Hazard Reduction burning.

### **What Are The Fire Hazard Reduction Burning Rules?**

Effective March 1, 2011, you must follow all of the requirements below:

- Fire hazard reduction burning may only be conducted on a permissive burn day. Burn day status for Fire Hazard Reduction burning is provided on the Residential Burning information line and is updated daily by 8:45 a.m. When meteorological conditions are favorable for burning, the District also provides a burn day forecast for the following day by 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. 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](http://www.bcaqmd.org). You must confirm that it is a permissive burn day before burning.
- Burn hours are from 8:45 a.m. to one hour before sunset. No material may be added to the fire after 3:00 p.m. When fire protection agency burn permits are in effect (typically May-June), burn hours are as stated on your burn permit. Contact your local fire protection agency with any questions regarding their rules.
- Only clean, dry vegetation may be burned on the property on which it was grown.
- 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.
- Burning should not be conducted when wind may carry smoke into a nearby populated area and create a public nuisance.

### **Where Can I Get More Information?**

More information regarding the District's Open Burning Regulations and other programs may be obtained at our website: [www.bcaqmd.org](http://www.bcaqmd.org) or by calling the District office at 530-332-9400 or toll free at 1-855-332-9400.