



News Release

MONTEREY BAY

Unified Air Pollution Control District
serving Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Backyard Burn Season Begins December 1st

From December 1st through April 30th the residential burning of dry yard trimmings is permitted, with some restrictions, in San Benito, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties. Fires to dispose of dry vegetation cleared prior to a construction project are also permitted. The burning of garbage and treated wood is strictly prohibited at all times.

Burning Creates Smoke Impacts

Smoke from burning dry vegetation is a significant source of air pollution. Air contaminants in smoke include volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, fine particulate matter, and carbon monoxide. If not carefully managed, smoke can cause a nuisance to neighbors and can impact the health of the community. Backyard burning is particularly significant because it releases pollutants at ground level where they are more easily inhaled. Fine particles in smoke are so small that they can get deep into the lungs and cause serious health problems. Numerous scientific studies have linked particle pollution exposure to a variety of problems including respiratory symptoms, decreased lung function, and irregular heartbeat. Children, older adults, and persons with heart or lung disease are the most likely to be affected.

Burn Smart & Safe to avoid enforcement actions or fire damage

Each year the Air District investigates complaints resulting from backyard burns. These investigations can lead to citations and fines. More significantly, improper burns can escape, causing property damage and/or injury. It is far better to plan your burn carefully and stop burning if weather conditions become unfavorable.

Learn more at www.mbuapcd.org. A list of requirements and clean safe burning tips can be found on the Air District's website. Learn more about this matter and other types of open burns, "Cleaner Alternatives to Open Burning", the Smoke Management Program, "Burn only Dry Materials", and "Rule 438". For questions or interviews please contact the district coordinator listed above.

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