

Contact your
local air district and local fire agency
for more information on
residential burning regulations

Amador County APCD 209-223-6406
Burn number 209-223-6246

Calaveras County APCD 209-754-6504
Burn numbers
Entire county 209-754-6600
Copperopolis 209-785-7664

El Dorado County APCD 530-621-6662
Burn number 530-621-5897
webpage:
www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/emd/apcd/index.html

Northern Sierra AQMD 530-274-9360
Burn numbers
530-268-1023 Higgins Corner
530-274-7928 Grass Valley
530-582-1027 Truckee
530-994-3561 Sierraville
530-289-3662 Downieville
530-283-3602 Quincy
530-258-2588 Chester
530-284-6520 Greenville
530-832-4528 Portola
webpage: www.nccn.net/~nsaqmd

Mariposa County APCD 209-966-2220
Burn number 1-888-440-BURN

Placer County APCD 530-889-7130
Burn number 530-889-6868 or
toll free 1-800-998-2876
webpage: www.placer.ca.gov/airpollution/airpolut.htm

Tuolumne County APCD 209-533-5693
Burn number 209-533-5598

Mountain Counties Air Basin



This pamphlet was developed by the
Mountain Counties Air Basin
Technical Advisory Committee

RESIDENTIAL BURNING



Knowing
What You Can
and Cannot Burn
and Knowing
Why It's Important

WHAT IS RESIDENTIAL BURNING?

Residential burning is the use of an outdoor fire to dispose of the following:

- ☉ Vegetation
- ☉ Untreated wood
- ☉ ~~Clean paper~~
- ☉ ~~Clean cardboard~~

Residential burning is allowed only on the property of a one or two family dwelling in which the material burned originates. Burning is allowed only on permissive burn days. Burn day phone numbers for each air district are on the back of this pamphlet.

WHAT CANNOT BE BURNED?

Materials that CANNOT be legally burned include but are not limited to the following:

- ☉ Household garbage
- ☉ Painted or stained wood
- ☉ Plywood, particleboard or OSB
- ☉ Roofing materials
- ☉ Construction and demolition debris
- ☉ Furniture
- ☉ Clothing
- ☉ Diapers
- ☉ Plastics
- ☉ Tires and other rubber products
- ☉ Tar paper
- ☉ Insulation
- ☉ Paint, paint cans or containers
- ☉ Waste oil
- ☉ Electrical wire
- ☉ Glass bottles and cans
- ☉ Animal carcasses, urine or feces

BURNING ILLEGAL MATERIALS CAUSES AIR POLLUTION

Smoke from residential burning is an uncontrolled source of air pollution. Smoke generated at ground level can affect those conducting the burn, their families and neighbors. Not only can smoke be a nuisance, it can affect your health.

Burning illegal materials exposes people to unhealthy air. Immediate health effects may include **burning and itching eyes, shortness of breath, and asthma attacks**. Long term effects may include **respiratory disease, lung damage, cancer, and premature death**.

In 1997 an U.S. EPA study characterized emissions from burn barrels. Based on this study consider the following statistics:

- ☉ The average person in California generates 900 pounds of waste material each year.
- ☉ There are approximately 523,000 people in the Mountain Counties Air Basin.
- ☉ 1/4 of the people burn their waste material.
- ☉ 15 pounds of **particulate matter** would be emitted per person equaling 980 tons per year in the Mountain Counties Air Basin.
- ☉ 0.0034 pounds of **volatile organic compounds** would be emitted per person equaling 444 pounds per year in the Mountain Counties Air Basin. This includes toxic compounds such as benzene, styrene and toluene.

- ☉ 4.5 pounds of **semi-volatile organic compounds** would be emitted per person equaling 294 tons per year in the Mountain Counties Air Basin. This includes compounds such as phenol and naphthalene.
- ☉ **Other pollutants** emitted include chlorobenzenes, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, aldehydes and ketones, dioxins and furans, PCBs and metals.

HELP KEEP OUR AIR CLEAN

When burning, remember to follow these simple requirements:

- ☉ Call the burn line prior to lighting a fire.
- ☉ Burn only on permissive burn days.
- ☉ Contact your local fire agency for their burn requirements.
- ☉ Burn only legal material.
- ☉ Burn only dry material.
- ☉ Watch where your smoke is going. Burn only when smoke moves away from neighbors.

Burning illegal materials and burning on a no-burn day may lead to costly fines.

Consider **alternatives** to burning such as composting, chipping, mulching, and/or recycling through your local landfill or disposal service.

The air in our communities will be cleaner for us to breathe with your cooperation.