



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I need a permit from both CAL FIRE and the APCD?

Answer – CAL FIRE permits are required when there is a risk of piles escaping and causing property damage, hence their 4 feet by 4 feet size restriction as well as other conditions. Once that risk is gone CAL FIRE permits will no longer be required. The APCD is concerned with smoke production that can be harmful to the public's health. Permits are a tool both agencies use to educate to people on how to burn safely and with a minimum amount of smoke.

How much is a burn permit for hazard reduction burning on my property?

Answer – APCD permits are \$25

If I'm only burning the material from my fire safe/CAL FIRE Clearance do I need to buy a permit?

Answer – No, residential clearance burning is currently exempt from having to obtain a permit.

What if I want to extend my clearance beyond the CAL FIRE minimum requirements, can I add that material to my piles without getting a permit?

Answer – No, the exemption only applies to material removed from the 100 foot radius around structures.

Can I move the material I want to burn to an area more than 100 feet from my house or other structure and still be exempt?

Answer – Yes, we encourage you to locate your burn pile in a safe area; therefore, you are allowed to go outside of the 100 foot clearance area to do the actual burning.

How will you know if I don't get a permit and I burn material that originated more than 100 feet from my buildings?

Answer – Chances are we won't unless we get a complaint. However, we believe that the property owners in Mariposa County are good law abiding citizens that want to comply with the laws when they know the laws exist. Violating air pollution laws is actually a misdemeanor that includes the possibility of fines and/or jail if convicted.

Can I burn my piles on any day I want to burn them?

Answer – NO, you can only burn on days that have been identified as permissive burn days in Mariposa County and you can only light piles that will be fully consumed on the same day that they were started without approval to ignite from the Air District. Call 966-1200 or 1-888-440-BURN for burn day info.

Do I need a special permit if my pile has large logs and stumps that will burn for several days?

Answer – No, but you will need to call the Air District at 209-966-2220 or 1-888-777-0377 to find out if the next few days are going to be burn days before starting the pile burning.

I have several properties that I will be burning on; do I need a separate permit for each property?

Answer – NO, you can list all of your properties on a single permit; however, all of the material you burn must have grown on the property you are burning it on.