



Air Pollution Control Board

Greg Cox	District 1
Dianne Jacob	District 2
Pam Slater-Price	District 3
Ron Roberts	District 4
Bill Horn	District 5

COMPLIANCE ADVISORY

AIRBORNE TOXIC CONTROL MEASURE (ATCM) TO REDUCE EMISSIONS OF TOXIC AIR CONTAMINANTS FROM OUTDOOR RESIDENTIAL WASTE BURNING

The California Air Resources Board has adopted a new airborne toxic control measure (Title 17, California Code of Regulations, Section 93113) designed to reduce public exposure to dioxins and other toxics from outdoor residential waste burning statewide. Exposure to these toxic pollutants may cause cancer, immune system damage and other health problems.

This regulation is in effect now and prohibits most burning of residential waste outdoors in most areas of San Diego County. The regulation applies to anyone burning residential waste outdoors in open piles, burn pits, burn barrels, or incinerators. This regulation does not prohibit agricultural burning, prescribed burning, or burning of clean dry vegetative waste.

San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Rule 101 – Burning Control already prohibits outdoor residential waste burning in the Western Section of San Diego County. However, outdoor residential waste burning has been allowed in the Eastern Section of San Diego County.

Specifically, the new airborne toxic control measure:

- Prohibits burning of residential waste outdoors in areas with a population density of more than three persons per square mile, except for burning of clean dry vegetative waste.
- Applies to many areas in the Eastern Section of the county where residential waste burning has been allowed in the past.
- Allows open burning of clean, dry vegetation waste.
- Allows the burning of dry non-glossy paper and cardboard and the use of burn barrels and incinerators in unincorporated areas with population densities of three persons or less per square mile.

An APCD Burn Permit is required before conducting any open outdoor burning. Allowed burning can only be done on permissive burn days, and an APCD-approved ignition device must be used.

Attached is a copy of the California Air Resources Board Fact Sheet for Backyard Household Waste Burning that further discusses the scope of this airborne toxic control measure. Copies of the Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Reduce Emissions of Toxic Air Contaminants from Outdoor Residential Waste Burning and additional information may be obtained from the California Air Resources Board website, www.arb.ca.gov/smp/resburn/resburn.htm, or you may contact the APCD at (858) 650-4700. If you have any questions regarding this regulation, please contact Scott Underhill in the APCD Compliance Division at (858) 650-4555.

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Fact Sheet

California Environmental Protection Agency
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Dioxins

What are dioxins?

Dioxins are highly toxic chemicals that are formed during the combustion (burning) of materials and the manufacture of certain chlorinated chemicals. Dioxins can be emitted from a variety of sources including cars and trucks, waste incineration, chemical manufacturing plants, and other industrial sources that burn fuel. These toxic chemicals can be inhaled directly or can contaminate vegetation and be eaten by animals and humans. Dioxins then accumulate in the body. The Air Resources Board (ARB) has identified dioxins as a toxic air contaminant (TAC) and they are listed as hazardous air pollutants by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). Many studies have shown that dioxins can cause cancer and other health problems including birth defects and liver damage.

What is ARB doing about dioxins?

The ARB has taken aggressive steps to reduce the public's exposure to known sources of dioxins and other air toxics. In 1990, the ARB adopted a control measure to reduce emissions of dioxins from medical waste incinerators by 99 percent. At that time, medical waste incinerators were one of the largest known air sources of dioxins in California. As a result of the control measure, the number of medical waste incinerators in the state dropped sharply from about 150 to less than 15.

Currently, the ARB is developing a comprehensive air quality monitoring and testing program to collect ambient data for dioxins, furans, and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in California. Under this program, the ARB will evaluate potential health impacts, assess the need for additional risk management strategies, and identify areas where additional study may be required. The program's components include: the development of the California Ambient Dioxin Air Monitoring Program (CADAMP) at a total of nine locations in the state (five in the San Francisco Bay Area and four in the South Coast Air Basin); the testing of potential dioxin-emitting facilities; and the testing of motor vehicles.

Where will dioxins be monitored?

In cooperation with U.S. EPA and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the ARB has selected five air monitoring sites in the Bay Area. All of the ARB sites are located in densely populated areas where emissions of dioxins could occur. Air monitoring locations in the Bay Area will be in Fruitvale, Crockett, Livermore, San Jose, and Richmond. Monitoring will begin during December 2001 and operate at each site for two years. Additionally, U.S. EPA and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District installed a background dioxin monitoring site on the Marin headlands at Fort Cronkhite to investigate ambient dioxins, furans, and dioxin-like PCBs coming into the Bay Area.

In cooperation with the South Coast Air Quality Management District, four sites have been selected in the South Coast Air Basin. Air monitoring locations in the South Coast Air Basin will be in Wilmington, Boyle Heights, Reseda, and Rubidoux. Monitoring will begin in early 2002 and operate at each site for two years.

For more information

Visit our web site at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/dioxins/dioxins.htm>. You may also call the ARB's Public Information Office at (916) 322-2990. You may also obtain this document in an alternative format by contacting ARB's ADA Coordinator at (916) 322-4505 (voice); (916) 324-9531 (TDD, Sacramento area only); or (800) 700-8326 (TDD, outside Sacramento).

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our web site: www.arb.ca.gov.



Fact Sheet

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 **Air Resources Board**

Backyard Household Waste Burning

What you don't know can hurt you

Some people still have 55-gallon metal drums in their yards that they use to burn household garbage and rubbish. It's important to know that burning these materials can release some very unhealthy air pollutants that can affect you, your family, and your community. Below are some facts about the public health problem posed by burning these wastes at home.

- Use of burn barrels is a public health concern. Household waste burned in these barrels produces toxic pollutants that can linger in the environment and our bodies for a long time. These toxic pollutants may cause cancer, immune system damage, and other health problems.
- The cancer causing pollutants produced during burning include dioxins. Infants and young children may be especially vulnerable to dioxin exposure according to the State Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment. The smoke produced by burning waste in burn barrels may also cause other health effects, such as triggering asthma attacks.
- Avoiding the plume of smoke is not sufficient to eliminate the potential health risks. These toxic pollutants can travel long distances, and can deposit on soil, plants, and in water. The ash from the barrel also contains these pollutants, which can be released into the soil and water. Animals and fish can ingest the pollutants, plants can absorb them, and they can be passed on to people when contaminated food is eaten.
- In the year 2002, about 800,000 households throughout the State were allowed to burn some form of household waste in burn barrels. This burning is one of the largest sources of dioxins in California. While other dioxin sources such as municipal and medical waste incinerators have strict pollution control devices, household waste burning does not.
- To address this public health concern, a new rule restricting the burning of household waste will take effect January 1, 2004.

If you have special accommodation or language needs, please contact the Air Resources Board Coordinator at (916) 323-4916. TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

What am I Allowed to Burn?

- Burning household waste outdoors, including paper and cardboard, and the use of burn barrels for residential burning will be prohibited statewide beginning January 1, 2004, under a new statewide regulation.
- Under the new regulation, burning dry vegetation waste in piles at a residence will still be allowed, unless prohibited by local rules and ordinances. Check with your local air district for any additional restrictions.

Are there any Exemptions?

- Exemptions *may* be allowed to burn paper and cardboard, and to use burn barrels in areas of very low population density in some of the more rural areas of the State, in recognition of the limited availability of waste services. No exemptions are allowed for the burning of plastics and household garbage. Check with your local air district to determine whether you live in an exemption area.

What are my Alternatives to Burning?

- Household garbage and rubbish will need to be disposed of through curbside pickup or self-hauling to a transfer station, landfill, or recycling center.
- There are several ways to reduce the volume of waste materials we generate and therefore have to dispose of. These include buying products with less packaging, reusing materials, and recycling. In addition, household waste can be compacted and organic and paper waste can be composted.
- Although many local ordinances continue to allow natural vegetation to be burned in piles, non-burning alternatives should be considered where possible to minimize neighborhood smoke impacts. These alternatives include composting and chipping vegetation.

Additional Information Sources

ARB Residential Burning Web Page:
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/smp/resburn/resburn.htm>

Integrated Waste Management Board Web Page:
<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/PublicEd/>

ARB Public Information Office: (916) 322-2990

WHAT ARE SOME OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING?

Composting: Organic material such as fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, leaves, and grass clippings can be composted into mulch and natural fertilizer for gardens. You can learn more about composting at the U.S. EPA website:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/compost.htm>

Paper Shredding: Inexpensive paper shredders can be purchased to destroy personal papers at home, before recycling or disposal.

HOW CAN WE REDUCE VEGETATION BURNING AT RESIDENCES?

Residents can compost their vegetation waste or "green waste" in their yards. Mulching lawnmowers eliminate clean-up time and cost. Chipped twigs and branches make excellent landscaping material and can also be composted. Many communities without regular green waste collection do have composting areas at the local landfill. For more information about alternatives to burning vegetation, including biomass conversion to energy, visit this website:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/smp/biomass/biomass.htm>



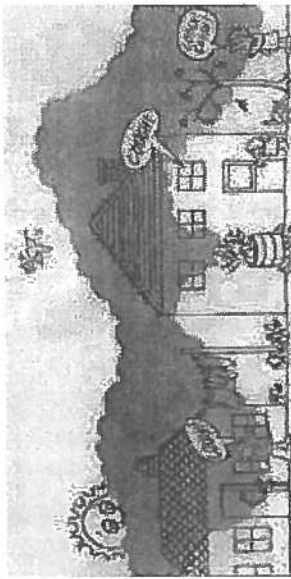
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE !

➡ If you observe illegal residential burning, or if you would like to report someone who is a continual problem burner, contact your local air district.

➡ Contact the local fire department **ONLY** when there is an immediate emergency.

For More Information,
Contact Your Local Air District at:

Burning Residential Waste



LEARN BEFORE YOU BURN !

*Know the Law
Know What to Do
Know Who to Contact*

California Air Resources Board
website for Residential Burning:
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/smp/resburn/resburn.htm>

California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street, P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812
(916) 322-2990

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California Environmental Protection Agency



Air Resources Board

WHAT IS RESIDENTIAL BURNING?

Residential burning is the disposal of waste from a residence by burning it outdoors on the ground or in a container, such as a burn barrel.

HOW IS IT HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH?

Residential waste burning is a serious health problem for many people exposed to the toxic air pollutants found in the smoke. Immediate effects may include burning or itchy eyes, shortness of breath, and asthma attacks. Long-term effects may include respiratory disease, lung or immune system damage, cancer, and premature death. Infants, small children, the elderly, and people with ailments like asthma and emphysema are especially sensitive to the toxic compounds produced by burning household waste.

HOW DOES IT AFFECT COMMUNITY HEALTH?

Even in small communities, smoke travels easily through neighborhoods. Many persons view exposure to smoke from burning residential waste as a public nuisance, but it can be far more. Smoke released at ground level or close to the ground means pollution from residential burning can directly affect the health of those conducting the burning, their families and neighbors.

WHY SHOULD WE REDUCE THESE TOXICS IN OUR ENVIRONMENT?

The toxic air pollutants produced from burning household waste can travel long distances and deposit on soil, plants, and in water. The leftover ash in the burn pile or barrel also contains toxic pollutants, which can spread into the soil and water. Animals and fish can ingest the pollutants and accumulate them in their tissue; plants can absorb them too. When this contaminated food is eaten, the pollutants are passed on to people. Therefore, simply avoiding the plume of smoke does not eliminate potential health risks.

WHAT IS THE NEW STATEWIDE RULE TO REDUCE THIS POLLUTION?

Beginning **January 1, 2004**, household waste cannot be burned at residences. The following restrictions will be enforced statewide.

1. If your city or town has not already banned yard waste burning, only vegetation grown on your property can be burned at your residence.
2. The use of burn barrels or backyard incinerators is not allowed.
3. If you are allowed to burn vegetation, you must start the fire with an ignition device approved by your local air district.
4. Outdoor residential burning can only occur on a permissive burn day in your local air district.

Many large air districts already ban outdoor residential waste burning. Check with your local air district for any additional restrictions. Most places in California also require a burn permit, to control residential burning in the community.

ARE THERE ANY EXEMPTIONS?

No exemptions are allowed for burning plastics and household garbage.

In recognition of limited availability of waste services in some of the more rural and sparsely populated areas of California, some exemptions may be allowed to burn paper and cardboard, and to use burn barrels, in designated geographic areas. Check with your local air district to determine if you live in an exemption area.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH HOUSEHOLD WASTE?

Reduce: Avoid disposable items. Buy products in bulk or economy sizes rather than individually wrapped or single serving sizes. Buy durable, repairable products and products that can be recycled, reused, or refilled. **Reuse:** Donate unwanted clothing, furniture and toys to friends, relatives, or charities. Give unwanted magazines and books to hospitals, schools, libraries, or nursing homes. Mend and repair rather than discard or replace.

Recycle: Separate recyclable items from residential waste and prepare them for a waste collection service or drop them off at a local recycling center.

then, Dispose: If you are unable to get routine waste collection service at your residence, combine trips to approved waste disposal facilities with other errands. Hazardous household waste such as solvents, oils, and oil-base paints must go to a local hazardous waste collection site.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH BURN BARRELS AND ASH?

Do not dispose of ash on the ground or into waterways, instead take it to an approved disposal facility. Transfer stations and landfills accept ash and barrels separately. Let ash cool for at least three days to make certain no embers or heat can start a fire at the disposal location. Depending on the condition of the barrel, some certified metal recyclers and processors may accept used burn barrels. After the ash is removed, some landfills request a barrel be crushed or flattened and the bottom removed.

WHAT APPROVED RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES ARE NEARBY?

Find the facilities nearest you by calling your County waste management or public works office. Learn what to do with various materials, by clicking on "Reuse & Recycling Centers" at the EARTH 911 website: <http://california.earth911.org/master.asp>. You can also find out about recycling, transfer, and disposal facilities at the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) website: <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/SWIS/Search.asp>.

STILL BURNING YOUR GARBAGE?

STOP !!!

January 1, 2004

it will no longer be legal.

Burning garbage emits dangerous chemicals into the air. These chemicals remain in the environment long after the fire is extinguished. To protect your health and the health of your family and neighbors, the California Air Resources Board has banned the burning of trash. Please help us to protect you, your family, your neighbors and the environment by using a trash collection service or taking your trash to your local landfill or transfer station. Call to get more information:

San Diego Air Pollution Control District - (858) 650-4550

