



Mendocino County Air Quality Management District

Open Outdoor Burning Program

306 E Gobbi St.
Ukiah, CA 95482
707-463-4354
www.mendoair.org

- **BURN PERMITS REQUIRED:**

- Fire Season (May 1 – approx. Nov. 1). Winter Burning (Approx. Nov. 1 – April 30).
- Written permits are required year-round from an authorized Fire Agency or Air Quality.
- Fires used for the cooking of food for human consumption, recreational purposes, or warmth may be exempt from permitting requirements.

- **PROHIBITED ACTIVITY:**

- Burning without a valid permit;
- Burning on a No-Burn Day.
- Burning during a declared ‘Burn Ban’.
- Burning Unapproved Combustibles. (Household garbage, Lumber, Metal, Paint, Cardboard, Pallets, Plastics, Tires, Oil, Animal waste, etc.)
- Burning of vegetation not grown on the property.
- Burning of waste resulting from any processing activity at the site or facility.
- Burning of marijuana / cannabis debris (leaves, stems, roots).

Marijuana / cannabis is **not** classified as an agricultural crop and waste material associated with processing **cannot** be disposed of through open outdoor burning.

Burning of marijuana /cannabis debris in a woodstove or fireplace is **prohibited** due to potential health impacts on receptors and public nuisance.

- **RESTRICTED BURNING ACTIVITY:**

- Burning of poison oak or oleander is restricted due to potential health impacts on sensitive receptors. Authorization is required from Air Quality in accordance with District Regulation 2.

- **REQUIRED MINIMUM DRYING TIMES:**

- Field crops and weeds - 7 days.
- Brush, vines, bushes, prunings and small branches - 15 days.
- Trees and branches over 6 inches in diameter - 60 days.
- Stumps shall not be burned unless uprooted and dried at least 180 days, split in half or quartered, and free of dirt.

- **PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PERMIT (Required to be Issued by Air Quality):**

- Property Development includes, but is not limited to, timberland conversion, the destruction of perennial crops by burning, clearing of land for residential, roads or other development.
- Requires District approval prior to individual daily ignitions.

- **SMOKE MANAGEMENT PLANS (Required to be Issued by Air Quality):**

- Required for more than ten (10) acres standing brush/ grass or more than fifty (50) tons of piled fuel.
- May be required by the District for less than 10 acres or 50 tons for any burn that has the potential to impact public health (located near sensitive receptors - populated areas, schools, hospitals, etc.) or become a public nuisance.
- Requires District approval prior to individual daily ignitions.
- Smoke Management Plans may be valid for up to 5 years.



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AGRICULTURAL CATEGORIES:

Open outdoor fires may be allowed only for the disposal of approved combustibles on permissive burn days in the following agricultural operations:

Agricultural:

Open outdoor fires used in agricultural operations in the commercial growing of crops or raising of fowl or animals, or open outdoor fires used in forest management, range improvement, or the improvement of land for wildlife and game habitat, or disease or pest prevention.

Range Improvement:

The use of open fires to remove vegetation for a wildlife, game or livestock habitat.

Forest Management:

The use of open fires, as part of a forest management practice, to remove forest debris or for forest management practices which include timber operations, silvicultural practices or forest protection practices.

Wildlife Habitat Management:

The use of open fire for improvement of land for wildlife and game habitat.

Wildland Vegetation Management:

The use of prescribed burning conducted by a public agency, or through a cooperative agreement or contract involving a public agency for improvement of land for wildlife and game habitat, or disease or pest prevention, and reduction of fuel load on wildlands.

Note: Agricultural burning on No-Burn days and during a Burn Ban may be allowed by the District if ordered by the Agricultural Commissioner.

NON-AGRICULTURAL CATEGORIES:

Open outdoor fires may be allowed only for the disposal of approved combustibles on permissive burn days in the following non-agricultural operations:

Single Family or Two-Family Residential:

Residential 'Dooryard Pile': Small diameter (< 4'x4') pile of vegetative material from the immediate vicinity of a residence. (Leaves, shrubs, garden waste, small limbs, etc).

A District permit may not be required for a **SINGLE** 4' x 4' pile of yard debris. Burn permits **are** required for residential burning of a single dooryard pile that is 'fed' from a larger pile.

Vegetation removal on any property that results in multiple 4' x 4' piles requires a burn permit from the local fire agency or the District.

Property Development:

The use of open outdoor burning during the process of converting land from one use to another.

Fire Hazard Reduction:

The use of open outdoor burning for disposal of standing brush, grass, brush clearance, and tree trimmings removed in compliance with local ordinances to reduce fire hazard on the property where grown.

Right-Of-Way Clearing:

The use of open fire to remove vegetation by a public agency, or through a cooperative agreement or contract involving a public agency.

Levee, Reservoir, Ditch Maintenance:

The burning of grass, brush and weeds on levees, ditch banks, ponds, reservoirs, and berms.

Fire Hazard Abatement Order (Issued by a Public Officer, Fire Marshall or Fire Chief and approved by Air Quality) Required for any open burning conducted by the following:

Commercial properties, businesses, schools, parks, churches, mobile home parks, apartment complexes, cemeteries, golf courses, homeowners associations, or properties without structures.