

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
REGULATORY COMPLIANCE DIVISION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy No. VI.N
Supersedes Date _____
Date July 21, 1995

Draft _____
Final X
Pages 3

Topic: Non-Agricultural Burning - Fire Training

Distribution: All Policy Holders

This policy and procedure document provides guidance in the enforcement of APCD Rule 313, Sections A.1.b and A.1.c, and Health and Safety Code section 41801 which provide for the use of open outdoor fires for the purpose of training public or industrial employees in the methods of fighting fire.

APPLICABILITY

The provisions and exemptions provided in APCD Rules and the Health and Safety Code apply to fire training activities and provide procedures necessary to assess the potential for nuisance and/or health impacts resulting from said training burns. The following procedure will be used by both public agencies and private companies that want to use open outdoor fires to conduct fire training exercises.

REQUIREMENTS

1. A permit to burn must be obtained from a public fire department, fire protection agency or other agency authorized to issue such permits by the Air Resources Board. A list of agencies authorized to issue burning permits is provided as Appendix A to Policy and Procedure VI.
2. The applicant will also complete the Application to Conduct Fire Training Exercises (see attached form ENF-69) and submit the form to the Regulatory Compliance Division clerk at least two weeks prior to the proposed exercise.
 - a. The clerk will date stamp the application and give it to the appropriate Enforcement Supervisor.
 - b. The Enforcement Supervisor will assign the application to an inspector for investigation if the exercise includes the burning of a building or structure.
 - c. Wildland fire training and the burning of small amounts of diesel, not exceeding 20 gallons, for fire extinguisher training, do not require pre-exercise investigations unless the location of the burn could contribute to the creation of a public nuisance.
3. If the fire training exercise includes the burning of any type of

building or is located such that it might cause a public nuisance, the assigned inspector will conduct a pre-exercise investigation. This pre-exercise investigation will include the following elements:

- a. The inspector will assess the potential for the exercise to cause a public nuisance, or damage the health or repose of any persons in the vicinity of the burn.
 - b. The investigation will also include an inspection of all rooms within the structure to verify the absence of chemicals, plastics, demolition debris, or other wastes which should not be burned.
 - c. If a building or other structure is demolished by intentional burning for any purpose, including but not limited to fire training, such burning (demolition) is subject to NESHAP asbestos requirements. Pre-demolition inspections of all structures shall be performed by an APCD inspector certified in asbestos NESHAP requirements. If the inspector suspects the presence of asbestos containing construction materials in the building, this suspicion will be noted in the Open Burn Assessment Report (ENF-2) and compliance with all provisions of NESHAPS will be evaluated. Furniture may be left in the structure to add realism to the exercise.
 - d. Out buildings such as sheds or barns should also be inspected if they are to be included in the training.
 - e. Rubble on the property or dilapidated buildings which would not provide effective training, as determined by the fire department personnel supervising the training, are not permitted to be burned.
 - f. The inspector will document this investigation by completing the Open Burn Assessment Report form. The inspector will submit the report to the Enforcement Supervisor within two working days of the completion of the investigation and at least four working days prior to the proposed date of the training exercise. The Open Burn Assessment Report will include the inspector's recommendations for conditions designed to mitigate the potential nuisance impacts.
3. The Enforcement Supervisor will prepare the Authority to Conduct Fire Training Exercises Letter. The letter will include the date and time of the proposed training burn and stipulate any conditions required to mitigate nuisance or health impacts. The letter will also stipulate whether or not the exercise may be conducted on a no-burn day. A copy of the letter will be provided to both the Regulatory Compliance Division's clerks and the APCD receptionist.
 4. Due to the problems with scheduling adequate fire suppression training for fire protection agencies and fire safety training for industrial employees, fire training exercises may be conducted on no-burn days between September 30 and May 31 if the following conditions are met:

- a. All neighboring residents and businesses within 100 yards of the exercise are notified of the intent to burn
 - b. The exercise is noticed at least seven (7) days in advance in the local newspaper
 - c. A public information post is maintained on site and manned by the Fire Protection Agency to respond to questions and inquiries
5. Pursuant to the provisions of District Rule 313, Section B, training burns conducted between May 31 and September 30 may be conducted only on days designated by the Air Resources Board as permissive burn days.

District policies regarding burning on days designated as No-Burn days are outlined in the "Burning on a No-Burn Day", Policy and Procedure VI.A.2.

6. All fires shall be thoroughly extinguished before being left by the attendant(s). Adequate provisions should be made for the immediate extinguishment of the fire should it threaten to spread out of control.
7. Regardless of permit, no fires shall be started any time when the weather conditions are such that it would be unsafe to burn or cause a hazard to vehicular traffic flow.





Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District

Our Vision: Clean Air

APPLICATION TO CONDUCT FIRE TRAINING EXERCISES

Applicant: _____

Contact: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Location of Proposed Exercise: _____

Date of Proposed Exercise: ____/____/____

Distance to nearest residence: _____

TYPE OF TRAINING:

Public Employee Training: ____ Industrial Employee Training: ____

Wildland Fire Training: ____ Structure Fire Training: ____

Fire Extinguisher Training: ____

MATERIAL TO BE BURNED:

Liquid Hydrocarbons: ____ Type: _____

Structure: ____ Type: _____

Foliage: ____ Type: _____

COMMENTS:

Signature

Date

Mail completed form to:
Santa Barbara County
Air Pollution Control District
26 Castilian Drive B-23
Santa Barbara, CA 93117



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Topic: Non-Agricultural Burning - Recreational Open Burning

Distribution: All Policy Holders

This policy and procedure provides guidance in the enforcement of APCD rules relating to open outdoor fires set for recreational purposes. It is the policy of the APCD to allow the setting of open outdoor fires for recreational purposes and for the cooking of food for human consumption as regulated under Health and Safety Code Section 41806, Article 2, Chapter 3, Part 4, Division 26 of the California Health and Safety Code.

APPLICABILITY

The APCD recognizes three types of open outdoor fires which fall within exemptions to open burning prohibitions given in Section 41806:

- Open outdoor fires set during the act of camping, in an area approved for camping, if such fires are not prohibited by the public agency responsible for resource management and law enforcement in that area
- Open outdoor fires set solely for the purpose of cooking food for human consumption
- Open outdoor fires set as festive bon fires, if approved by the fire protection agency of jurisdiction

REQUIREMENTS

A. CAMP FIRES AND COOKING FIRES

1. Camp fires are permitted in areas designated for legal camping if such fires are approved by local authorities.
2. APCD rules do not require persons who set camp fires to obtain permits. However, permits may be required by park districts, fire protection agencies or other local agencies.
3. Both camp fires and fires set for the purpose of cooking food for human consumption are exempt from APCD open burning regulations and visible emission limits, but are not exempt from the provisions of state and APCD nuisance rules.

B. FESTIVE BONFIRES

1. The APCD recognizes the burning of Christmas trees to be a recreational festive event and a safe method of reducing the

potential fire hazard associated with the disposal of large numbers of these dead trees. Consequently, the APCD permits open outdoor fires on no-burn days, in the month of January, for the purpose of burning Christmas trees provided that:

- a. The event must be properly permitted and sponsored or conducted by a public fire protection agency
 - b. The event is a community project open to everyone needing to dispose of a dead Christmas tree
 - c. The event is noticed at least seven (7) days in advance in the local newspaper to allow for maximum participation by the public
 - d. The event is located so as to reduce the potential for public nuisance
2. The leftover Christmas trees of a tree farm or a tree sales operation should be chipped or mulched and disposed of in a landfill or burned under an appropriate agricultural burning permit.