

Agricultural Burning FAQ

Who regulates agricultural burning in Sacramento County?

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Sac Metro Air District) regulates all agricultural burning in Sacramento County. In the past, the Sac Metro Air District contracted with the Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner's Office to issue Agricultural Burn Permits. Effective July 1, 2021, Sac Metro Air District will implement all aspects of the Agricultural Burn Program and begin issuing permits.

Who Needs an Agricultural Burning Permit?

Any agricultural operation that wants to burn agricultural waste or other related items or anyone conducting any controlled burning for land improvement needs a permit prior to burning.

What is the difference between agricultural burning and open burning?

If you are burning outdoors to dispose of material and you are not an agricultural operation, then you are open burning. Open burning is illegal in most parts of Sacramento County and subject to penalties. To legally open burn contact your local fire department or visit <http://www.airquality.org/Residents/Outdoor-Burning>

How do I apply for an Agricultural Burning Permit?

All recent Agricultural Burn Permit holders were recently sent a paper Ag Burn Permit application via mail. Permit applications must be submitted to the District with appropriate fees. You can submit your application in the following ways:

- Fill out and email the application to burning@airquality.org. You can pay your permit fees online at <http://author.airquality.org/Businesses/Payments>.
- Fill out and print the application and return it along with your permit fees to:

*Sac Metro Air District
777 12th Street, Ste. 300
Sacramento, CA 95814*

How do I conduct a legal Agricultural Burn?

- Get a valid Agricultural Burn Permit: Apply to Sac Metro Air District and pay the permit fees prior to burning. Receive a valid permit. Permits are issued for one year (July 1 – June 30).
- Receive Authorization to Burn. You can only burn on legal to burn days and for authorized amounts. Call (279) 972-BURN to receive authorization to burn. Sac Metro Air District will provide you with a code word to report to fire dispatch.
- Follow your permit conditions and authorization. You will be authorized to burn a specified quantity and you must adhere to all the conditions of the permit. These conditions include start and stop times. Failure to adhere to any requirement will result in a violation and penalty.

What is CalFire SRA?

SRA stands for the State Responsibility Area. CalFire SRA is the area where the State of California is financially responsible for preventing and suppressing wildfires. To check if your parcel is within the SRA, go to [SRA Viewer - State of California \(firepreventionfee.org\)](https://firepreventionfee.org)

How do I calculate my waste acres?

The acreage fee is for burnable waste generated from an acre of land. For example, if you had burnable waste from 2 acres of land, the fee would be \$3.50 (2 acres x \$1.75/acre.)

How are Burn Days determined?

Sac Metro Air District uses the California Air Resources Board's burn day status and acreage allotments, along with local air and weather forecasts to determine whether burning is allowed. You must call (279) 972-BURN to receive authorization before you burn.

When can I call Sac Metro Air District (279-972-BURN) to obtain burn day status and authorization for Agricultural Burning?

- Monday – Friday: 8 AM – 11 AM
- Burn day status will be posted as early as 8 AM and no later than 9:30 AM.
- You can leave a message to obtain authorization after the burn day status has been posted
- If you plan to burn on Saturday or Sunday, call Friday before 4 PM.

What are the different types of Agricultural Burn Days?

- **Permissive to Burn:** All types of agricultural burns may be conducted with a valid ag burn permit and authorization to burn from Sac Metro Air District.
- **Restricted:** Only specific types and/or limited quantities of agricultural burning may occur, with a valid ag burn permit and authorization to burn from Sac Metro Air District.
- **No Burn:** No outdoor burning (Agricultural or Open Burning) may be conducted. Violators will be subject to penalties.

Who do I contact to get assistance?

- **E-Mail:** You can contact Sac Metro Air District compliance staff at burning@airquality.org for any assistance you need. Staff will respond to your email during business hours.
- **Telephone:** Call (279) 972-BURN. You will have the option to speak to staff or request authorization to burn. During business hours compliance staff will answer calls when available. Messages will be returned promptly. Requests for authorization to burn will be made by leaving a message and the assigned burn day staff will call you back.

For more assistance, email burning@airquality.org or call (279) 972-BURN.