

**SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
INTER-AGENCY MEMORANDUM**

To: Fire Protection Officials in Sacramento County
From: David Grose, SMAQMD Stationary Source Division Manager (Enforcement and Permitting)
Date: May 25, 2004
Subject: **Training Burns**

Purpose This memo is to address the exemption for firefighter training burns from Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) Rule 407, Open Burning.

The AQMD recognizes the authority of Sacramento County fire officials to conduct appropriate training burns. We also greatly appreciate your cooperation in protecting the region's air quality by abiding by the specific requirements and requests described below. The rules discussed in this memo are available at www.airquality.org/rules/index.shtml. If you need hardcopies of these rules, please contact the AQMD at (916) 874-4800.

Training Fire Exemption Although the purpose of Rule 407 is to reduce air pollution from open outdoor fires, the rule conforms to California Health and Safety Code Section 41801 by exempting fires set *under the legal authority* of public officers for the purpose of instructing public employees in the methods of fighting fires. This particular exemption only applies to fires that are *deemed necessary* by the public officer. Section 41801 can be found at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html>.

Smoke Nuisance Please be aware that AQMD Rule 402, Nuisance, does not exempt training burns from liability for causing an air quality public nuisance.

Asbestos Requirements AQMD Rule 902, Asbestos, prohibits the intentional burning of buildings if asbestos containing material is present. Asbestos containing materials must be removed prior to burning.

Rule 902 contains many requirements, some based in federal law, pertaining to asbestos surveys, notifications, and asbestos removal. Please be sure you are familiar with this rule. Please contact the AQMD if you plan to burn a building for training purposes.

Additional requests If you plan to conduct a training burn, please do the following, in addition to complying with any applicable provisions of Rule 902, Asbestos:

- Provide advance notice to the AQMD at 874-4800 of planned burns, e.g. the location and volume of materials to be burned.
- Notify the AQMD at 874-4800 and the Agricultural Commissioner at 875-6603 on the day(s) of the burn(s).
- Conduct training burns only on agricultural burn days.
- Avoid conducting training burns during the summer smog season and fall agricultural burning period. (May through November)
- Burn only organic materials, such as grass, shrubs, or other wood materials.
- Do not burn prohibited materials or refuse. See Rule 407, Open Burning, Sections 204 and 301.

Contacts If you have questions concerning Rule 407 or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Susan Engstrom at (916) 874-4815. For questions concerning asbestos, please contact Jack Momperler at (916) 874-4869.