

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CAL FIRE CZU Resumes Wet Season Burning Process

FELTON - Due to recent rains and cooler temperatures, CAL FIRE CZU is resuming open burning.

In the State Responsibility Areas (SRA) of Santa Cruz County, residential backyard burning is allowed starting December 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024. This allows residents to burn up to a 4 x 4-foot pile of vegetation pursuant to the guidelines on page 2 without a CAL FIRE burn permit. This includes all areas covered by the Santa Cruz County Fire Department, Pajaro Valley and Pajaro Dunes Fire Districts.

All other open burning within the SRA of Santa Cruz County, plus any open burning in San Mateo County requires a **GENERAL** CAL FIRE Burn Permit which can be accessed at this link: [Burn Permits \(ca.gov\)](#) Select APPLY, then GENERAL Burn Permit (LE-5). The SRA of San Mateo County includes all areas under the jurisdiction of San Mateo County Fire Department and Coastside Fire Protection District.

Please keep in mind that you are responsible for reaching out to your respective Air Quality districts before you burn.

In Santa Cruz County, visit the Monterey Bay Air Resources District webpage: <https://www.mbard.org/open-burning>

In San Mateo County, visit the Bay Area Air Quality Management District webpage: [Open Burn Status \(baaqmd.gov\)](#)

For questions regarding your burn, please contact your nearest CAL FIRE Fire Station.

Visit www.fire.ca.gov or <http://www.readyforwildfire.org> for more information on wildfire preparedness.

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**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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Guidelines for Pile Burning

Start after 8:00 am and extinguished by 5:00 pm. Do not add any additional material to pile after 4:00 pm.

Only ignite the material that you can burn before 4:00 pm.

Have adequate fire tools onsite and functional.

Adequate water to extinguish fire and potential escape.

A responsible adult shall always be in attendance to monitor your fire until it is out.

Pile no bigger than 4'x4' nor taller than 4'. (Larger Piles will require Hazard Reduction/Ag Burn Permit)

If you plan on burning piles larger than above – request an inspection from your local fire station and a permit might be necessary.

Bare mineral soil clearance at least 10' wide around each pile.

Burn only cured (dry) material.

Do not burn trash.

Don't burn anything other than vegetative matter gathered from your property.

Only burn on "burn days" set by:

Santa Cruz County

Monterey Bay Area Unified
Air Pollution Control District
1-800-225-2876
[http://mbard.org/](http://mbard.org)

San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties

Bay Area Air Quality
Management District
1-800-435-7247

[http://www.baaqmd.gov/permits/
open-burn](http://www.baaqmd.gov/permits/open-burn)

Contact your local Air District (See above) before burning.

Don't burn on windy days or days with low relative humidity (Red Flag).

Always call your local fire station before you start.

Follow all applicable Local and State fire and air quality rules and regulations when burning.

If your fire escapes your control and we have to suppress it, you will be liable for suppression costs and potential criminal prosecution.