

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District

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Backyard Burn Season Begins

San Luis Obispo County – Due to recent rainfall, vegetation conditions have moderated the fire hazard such that Backyard Burn Permits will be temporarily authorized. “Backyard” burning refers specifically to the burning of yard trimmings in residential backyards. However, due to ongoing drought conditions and the expectation of dry conditions returning, fire season rules remain in effect. Therefore, backyard burning will only be authorized with valid burn permits from **both** APCD and CAL FIRE, pursuant to Public Resources Code 4423.

PERMIT REQUIRED

Type of Burning	APCD	CAL FIRE
Backyard	Backyard Burn Permit	LE-62a
Agricultural	Agricultural Burn Permit	LE-5

- **Backyard Burning** - May only be conducted by occupants of single family or duplex dwellings outside urban and village reserve lines in rural areas on a designated “Burn Day”.
- **Agricultural Burning** - May only be conducted by agricultural operations that derive income from the growing of crops, or the raising of animals, or vegetation, forest or range management.

CAL FIRE Burn Permits – Both types of CAL FIRE Burn Permits are available from your nearest CAL FIRE facility. Please visit www.calfireslo.org for information on burn permits and for Station locations and contacts, or call Unit Headquarters at 805-543-4244.

APCD Burn Permits (Not available at CAL FIRE facilities)

- Downloadable Applications for both types of APCD Burn Permits are available at www.SLOCleanAir.org to fill out, print and mail to the APCD, with a check for the permit fee (\$50.00) – credit card and electronic payments are currently NOT accepted. After receiving a valid application and check, the APCD will then issue a Burn Permit.
- Two-part Mail-in Application & Permit forms for both types of burning are available at most libraries, selected Community Service District offices, the County Agricultural Commissioner’s and the APCD office.

- For additional APCD information about burning and the downloadable Applications for San Luis Obispo County, please visit the web site at www.SLOCleanAir.org or contact the Air District's Compliance Division at (805) 781-5912. Call **1-800-834-2876** for Burn Day status.

Open burning releases smoke and air pollution that may be harmful to public health, and residents must exercise caution when conducting burning operations. Burning during windy or unsafe conditions frequently results in escaped fires and residents can receive misdemeanor citations and/or be billed for suppression costs. CAL FIRE and APCD urges residents to carefully follow the conditions stated on their permits or seek alternatives to burning, such as green-waste disposal, chipping and composting.

Chief Robert Lewin says *"We appreciate the public's understanding of why we have had to restrict burning for so long during this unusually difficult drought. We will continually evaluate weather and fuel conditions and provide as many opportunities as we can for residents to safely conduct burning"*.

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