

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



San Benito - Monterey Unit

CONTACT:
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RELEASE DATE:
May 1st, 2024

CAL FIRE Burn Permits Required May 1st, 2024, in San Benito and Monterey Counties

San Benito / Monterey- The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) San Benito – Monterey Unit has announced effective on Monday May 1st, 2024 all hazard reduction burning will require a permit in State Responsibility Areas of San Benito and Monterey Counties. Agricultural and broadcast burns will now require a burn permit. Backyard burn season has ended on April 30th, 2024 and will reopen December 1st, 2024.

Burn permits must now be obtained online at <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>. Applicants can access the website to obtain a burn permit which involves watching a short educational video and submitting an application. The process provides the necessary information needed to conduct the burn safely, while minimizing the chance for fire escape. Permits must be in possession either by printed copy or digitally. Permits are valid beginning May 6th of each year and require annual renewal. Permits are issued free of charge.

If over 10 acres, the burner must also submit a Smoke Management Plan (SMP) through the State of California Prescribed Fire Information Reporting System (Title 17 § 80160 (b)). SMPs can be submitted through web page listed below.

<https://ssl.arb.ca.gov/pfirs/index.php>

To open an account, go to Support on the menu bar and click Request Account. Please note SMP processing may take up to four weeks.

Property owners conducting hazard reduction burning are responsible for checking the burn day status.

Burn Day Information Line: 1-800-225-2876

Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD): (831) 647-9411

Hazard Reduction Guidelines are listed on the permit and must be followed at all times.

As a reminder, always have a minimum 30-foot clearance down to bare mineral soil around all burn piles, have a shovel and a water source available, and an adult present during burning. Failure to follow these simple precautions may result in a citation and fines. For further information regarding residential burning or other fire safety tips visit your local CAL FIRE Station or go <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>.

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