

# Learn Before You Burn



Fall is here and this year's fire season was particularly devastating to California's forestlands, wildlife, economy, people, and without question, its air quality. Proper clearing of vegetation around homes can help prevent and minimize wildfires in the future. *Cleared vegetation should be removed as green waste or composted!* If you must burn, the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) wishes to remind residents of the "What, When, Where and How" of proper and legal outdoor Open Burning.



Instead of Burning, use green waste collection or compost it



## What

ONLY

- Dry vegetation originating from the property on which it will be burned.
- If it's going to rain, cover your pile to keep it dry. Do not burn the cover.
- Don't burn just pine needles as they will smolder; add wood for more heat.



## When

ONLY

- On designated Burn Days (call the BURN LINE!)
- When local weather conditions are appropriate.
- With an AQMD Burn Permit (for piles greater than 4ft x 4ft).
- With a Burn Permit from local fire district or CalFire if required.



**BURN DAY**  
Information Lines

**West Slope:**  
530-621-5897 or  
866-621-5897

**South Lake Tahoe:**  
530-621-5842 or  
866-332-2876

## Where

ONLY

- On the property from which the dry vegetation originated.
- In areas where it's safe to burn, away from combustibles, with an adequate water supply and means to contact emergency personnel.



## How

ONLY

- In accordance with Air District Rule 300 Open Burning.
- In accordance with any other applicable requirements from your local fire protection district, CalFire, or US Forest Service. (CalFIRE (530) 644-2345)

Smoke nuisance complaints are the most common complaints AQMD receives during burn season. While you are allowed to burn vegetation under certain conditions, you do not have a right to inundate your neighbors with smoke and cause a nuisance. The information above and at the Air District's Open Burning website: [http://www.edcgov.us/Government/AirQualityManagement/Burn\\_Information\\_\(Outdoor\).aspx](http://www.edcgov.us/Government/AirQualityManagement/Burn_Information_(Outdoor).aspx) is intended to help residents burn properly and avoid creating a nuisance and degrading air quality.

As a reminder, the California Health & Safety Code Section 42400 gives AQMD the authority to levy fines to persons who violate District Rules, including Rule 300 Open Burning. The District also has a compliance course that violators may be required to complete.