

Air Quality Permitting

Prescribed Burn Association Workshop 1-15-19

NORTHERN SIERRA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (NSAQMD), 2019

Air Pollution Permits

- Required for non-residential open burning and residential burning in excess of one acre. Single or two-family dwellings do not require an air pollution permit for maintenance burning.
- Valid for one year from date of issue.
- There is a fee. The current base fee (through June 30, 2019) is \$70.35. There is an additional fee per acre.

Agricultural and Prescribed Burning

Air Pollution Permits are required for the following types of burns:

- **Forest Management – includes, but is not limited to, timber harvest slash burning and prescribed fire. Burns greater than 10 acres in size require a Smoke Management Plan.**
- Land Clearing for Development
- Agricultural
- Range Improvement
- Ditch, Road and Right-of-Way Maintenance
- Hazard Reduction

No Burn Day

Two agencies have authority to determine whether open burning is permitted or banned on a daily basis:

- California Air Resources Board determines if burning will be allowed based on weather forecasts and smoke dispersion. This decision is posted at 3:00PM daily. If an inversion is expected to keep smoke in the breathing zone, a No Burn Day will be decided.
- CALFIRE determines if burning will be allowed based on anticipated fire danger (or reduced resources).

If either of these agencies determines that open burning should be curtailed, the Northern Sierra AQMD will inform the public of a No Burn Day on the District's website and via burn status recorders. Updates are made between 3-5:00PM for the following day.

Smoke Management Plans

- Required for any prescribed burn over 10 acres (or emitting more than one ton of particulate matter).
- Must be submitted to NSAQMD and be approved before project commences.
 - PFIRS: <https://ssl.arb.ca.gov/pfirs/>
 - NSAQMD fillable pdf: <http://myairdistrict.com/index.php/forms/>
 - Print pdf and fill out a hardcopy and fax to NSAQMD at 530-274-7546.
- Required for naturally ignited wildland fires and managed fires, as well. Plans must be completed and submitted within 72 hours of the start of the fire if the size is expected to exceed 10 acres.

Public Health – Why Air Quality Matters

- NSAQMD Mission: *Preserving air quality and protecting the public health and public welfare in Nevada, Plumas and Sierra Counties.*

The Northern Sierra Air Management District was formed in 1986 by the merging of the Air Pollution Control Districts of Nevada, Plumas and Sierra Counties. The District is required by state law to achieve and maintain the federal and state Ambient Air Quality Standards, which are air quality standards set at levels that will protect the public health. The District is composed of three primary entities, each with a specific purpose: District staff, Governing Board of Directors, and Hearing Board.

- Particulate Matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 microns or less (PM_{2.5}) is linked with premature death, work and school absences, and significant health problems including aggravated asthma, acute respiratory symptoms (such as chest pain and coughing), chronic bronchitis, decreased lung function and heart disease.
- Wood smoke is made up of particulate matter as well as carcinogenic compounds – polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), benzene, aldehydes, carbon monoxide (CO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and other free radicals.

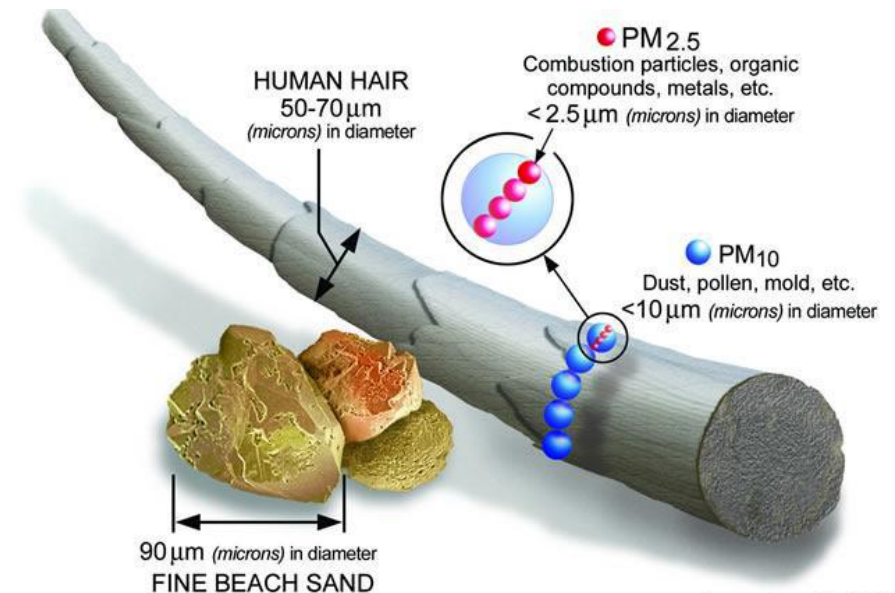


Image courtesy of the U.S. EPA

Resources

www.myairdistrict.com

- NSAQMD Rules - <http://myairdistrict.com/index.php/rules/>
- Open Burning Tips - <http://myairdistrict.com/index.php/burning-info/open-burning/>
- Burn Day Status - <http://myairdistrict.com/index.php/burning-info/burn-day-status/>
- Julie Ruiz, APCS, Portola Office,
530-832-0102, Julie@myairdistrict.com
 - Permitting, monitoring, enforcement
- Joe Fish, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, Grass Valley Headquarters,
530-274-9360, joe@myairdistrict.com
 - Smoke management plans, no burn day authorization, permitting

Resources (cont.)

- To see 'real-time' air quality data, go to www.myairdistrict.com. Click on the desired location (Quincy, Chester, Portola, Truckee or Grass Valley) in the scrolling mid-page banner. The data is actually delayed about an hour.
- To sign up for health advisories, go to www.myairdistrict.com. Select 'email lists' from the top black banner on the home page.

Air Quality Index	Who Needs to be Concerned?	What Should I Do?
Good 0-50		It's a great day to be active outside.
Moderate 51-100	Some people who may be unusually sensitive to particle pollution.	Unusually sensitive people: Consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion. Watch for symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath. These are signs to take it easier. Everyone else: It's a good day to be active outside.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups 101-150	Sensitive groups include people with heart or lung disease, older adults, children and teenagers.	Sensitive groups: Reduce prolonged or heavy exertion. It's OK to be active outside, but take more breaks and do less intense activities. Watch for symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath. People with asthma should follow their asthma action plans and keep quick relief medicine handy. If you have heart disease: Symptoms such as palpitations, shortness of breath, or unusual fatigue may indicate a serious problem. If you have any of these, contact your health care provider.
Unhealthy 151 to 200	Everyone	Sensitive groups: Avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Move activities indoors or reschedule to a time when the air quality is better. Everyone else: Reduce prolonged or heavy exertion. Take more breaks during all outdoor activities.
Very Unhealthy 201-300	Everyone	Sensitive groups: Avoid all physical activity outdoors. Move activities indoors or reschedule to a time when air quality is better. Everyone else: Avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Consider moving activities indoors or rescheduling to a time when air quality is better.
Hazardous 301-500	Everyone	Everyone: Avoid all physical activity outdoors. Sensitive groups: Remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Follow tips for keeping particle levels low indoors.

Source: AirNow.gov