

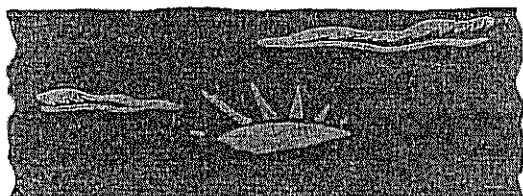
WHAT ARE SOME OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING?

Composting: Organic material such as fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, leaves, and grass clippings can be composted into mulch and natural fertilizer for gardens. You can learn more about composting at the U.S. EPA website:
<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/compost.htm>

Paper Shredding: inexpensive paper shredders can be purchased to destroy personal papers at home, before recycling or disposal.

HOW CAN WE REDUCE VEGETATION BURNING AT RESIDENCES?

Residents can compost their vegetation waste or "green waste" in their yards. Mulching lawnmowers eliminate clean-up time and cost. Chipped twigs and branches make excellent landscaping material and can also be composted. Many communities without regular green waste collection do have composting areas at the local landfill. For more information about alternatives to burning vegetation, including biomass conversion to energy, visit this website:
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/smp/biomass/biomass.htm>



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE !

- If you observe illegal residential burning, or if you would like to report someone who is a continual problem burner, contact your local air district.
- Use 911 ONLY when there is an immediate fire emergency.

For More Information - Please Contact:

Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District
Compliance Division
24580 Silver Cloud Court
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 647-9411 (phone)
(831) 647-8501 (FAX)

District web site:
<http://www.mbuapcd.org>

Daily Burn Day Status Hotline
(800) CAL-BURN
or (800) 225-2876

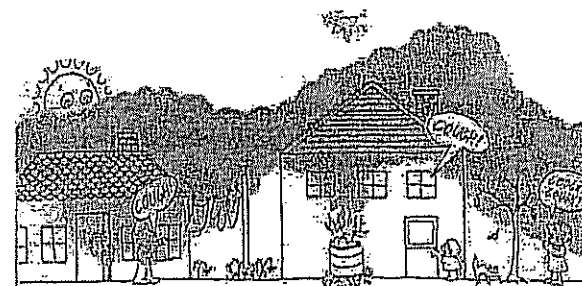
or

California Air Resources Board
website for Residential Burning:
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/smp/resburn/resburn.htm>

California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street, P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812
(916) 322-2990
ARB Forecast Line
(916) 322-6014

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Residential Burning



LEARN BEFORE YOU BURN !

Know the Law
Know What to Do
Know Whom to Contact



MONTEREY BAY
Unified Air Pollution Control District

California Environmental Protection Agency



Air Resources Board

WHAT IS RESIDENTIAL BURNING?

Residential burning is the disposal of household waste from a residence by burning it outdoors on the ground or in a container, such as a burn barrel.

HOW IS IT HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH?

Residential burning of waste is a serious health problem for many people exposed to the toxic air pollutants found in the smoke. Immediate effects may include burning or itchy eyes, shortness of breath, and asthma attacks. Long-term effects may include respiratory disease, lung or immune system damage, cancer, and premature death. Infants, small children, the elderly, and people with ailments like asthma and emphysema are especially sensitive to the toxic compounds produced by burning household waste.

HOW DOES IT AFFECT COMMUNITY HEALTH?

Even in small communities, smoke travels easily through neighborhoods. Many persons view exposure to smoke from burning residential waste as a public nuisance, but it can be far more. Smoke released at ground level or close to the ground means pollution from residential burning can directly affect the health of those conducting the burning, their families and neighbors.

WHY SHOULD WE REDUCE THESE TOXICS IN OUR ENVIRONMENT?

The toxic air pollutants produced from burning residential waste can travel long distances and deposit on soil, plants, and in water. The leftover ash in the burn pile or barrel also contains toxic pollutants, which can spread into the soil and water. Animals and fish can ingest the pollutants and accumulate them in their tissue; plants can absorb them too. When this contaminated food is eaten, the pollutants are passed on to people. Therefore, simply avoiding the plume of smoke does not eliminate potential health risks.

WHAT IS THE NEW STATEWIDE RULE TO REDUCE POLLUTION?

As of **January 1, 2004**, the burning of household waste at residences was banned throughout the State. The following restrictions are enforced statewide.

1. If your city or town has not already banned yard waste burning, only vegetation grown on your property, **no household waste**, can be burned at your residence.
2. Using burn barrels to burn yard waste has been banned, except in a few rural areas in south San Benito and Monterey counties. You can check with your local fire agency or air district to see if you can still burn yard waste in burn barrels.
3. If you are allowed to burn vegetation, you must start the fire with a device that does not produce black smoke.
4. Outdoor residential burning can only occur on a permissive burn day.

Many local fire agencies also require a burn permit, to control residential burning in the community.

ARE THERE ANY EXEMPTIONS?

No exemptions are allowed for burning plastics, treated or painted wood, or household waste.

In recognition of limited availability of waste services in more rural and sparsely populated areas, only clean paper and cardboard may be burned in unincorporated rural areas with no garbage service in the following Zip Codes: 93426; 93450; 93451; 93920; 93927; 93928; 93930; 93932; 93954; 95043.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH HOUSEHOLD WASTE?

Reduce: Avoid disposable items. Buy products in bulk or economy sizes rather than individually wrapped or single serving sizes. Buy durable, repairable products and products that can be recharged, reused, or refilled.

Reuse: Donate unwanted clothing, furniture and toys to friends, relatives, or charities. Give unwanted magazines and books to hospitals, schools, libraries, or nursing homes. Mend and repair rather than discard or replace.

Recycle: Separate recyclable items from residential waste and prepare them for a waste collection service or drop them off at a local recycling center.

then, Dispose: If you are unable to get routine waste collection service at your residence, combine trips to approved waste disposal facilities with other errands. Hazardous household waste such as solvents, oils, and oil-base paints must go to a local hazardous waste collection site.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH BURN BARRELS AND ASH?

Do not dispose of ash on the ground or into waterways, instead take it to an approved disposal facility. Transfer stations and landfills accept ash and barrels separately. Let ash cool for at least three days to make certain no embers or heat can start a fire at the disposal location. Depending on the condition of the barrel, some certified metal recyclers and processors may accept used burn barrels. After the ash is removed, some landfills request a barrel be crushed or flattened and the bottom removed.

WHAT APPROVED RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES ARE NEARBY?

Find the facilities nearest you by calling your County waste management or public works office. Learn what to do with various materials, by clicking on "Reuse & Recycling Centers" at the EARTH 911 website: <http://california.earth911.org/master.asp>. You can also find out about recycling, transfer, and disposal facilities at the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) website: <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/SWIS/Search.asp>.