



SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

7 Erba Lane, Scotts Valley, California 95066 (831) 438-0211 Fax (831) 438-0383

Backyard Burning Regulations

Backyard burning requires a permit to be issued by the Monterey Air Pollution Control District. Residents are required to have this permit on hand during all backyard burning.

THE BURN SEASON WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT IS DECEMBER 1 THROUGH APRIL 30. BURNING OUT OF SEASON MAY RESULT IN A CITATION AND YOU MAY BE LIABLE FOR ALL FIRE SUPPRESSION COSTS.

Beginning December 1, open burning will be permitted for one or two family dwellings ONLY. The burn season will end on April 30th. No backyard burning shall commence before 8:00 am and no additional fuels may be added after 3:00pm on any day. All burns must be extinguished by 4:00 on the same day.

Open burning shall be conducted only on days designated as BURN DAYS by the Monterey Bay Air Pollution Control District. You can call **1-800-225-2876 (Cal Burn)** after 4:00pm the day before or the day you wish to burn. **Your Burn Zone number is #31.**

Prior to commencement of backyard burning, please notify the Scotts Valley Fire Protection District at 438-0211.

The Scotts Valley Fire Protection District allows burning of yard and garden trimmings under the following regulations of the Fire Code and the Monterey Bay Air Pollution Control District.

1. ONLY yard trimmings and brush originating on the premises of one or two family dwellings by be burned.
2. The materials shall be arranged in small piles no larger than 4 feet in diameter and 4 feet high. All burn piles shall be free of waste materials such as tires, rubbish, tar paper, plastic, poison oak, construction materials and household garbage.
3. The use of any combustible and/or flammable liquids as starting fuels is expressly prohibited.
4. Open burning shall not be conducted within 50 feet of any building, structure, property line or other combustible material. **The minimum property size for backyard burning is ½ acre.**
5. A garden hose connected to a water supply shall be readily available for use at open burning sites. A competent adult with a shovel or other firefighting hand tools shall supervise the burning material until the fire has been extinguished.

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6. District fire officers are authorized to require that open burning be immediately discontinued if it is determined that it constitutes a hazardous condition, or becomes a public nuisance.
7. ALL BURNING IN AN INCINERATOR IS PROHIBITED.
8. The backyard trimmings and prunings must be reasonably free of surface moisture and soil.
9. No poison oak or poison ivy prunings.
10. Bare mineral soil clearance at least 10 feet around each burn pile shall be maintained.
11. No burning shall take place for 72 hours after rainfall totaling 0.25 inch or greater.
12. Any grass, small brush or similar vegetation shall be dry as feasible, with at least 10 days of drying time before burning the material. No green or weed backyard trimmings can be added to the burn piles, unless an additional 10 day drying period is allowed before setting the piles on fire.
13. Trees and branches under 2 inches in diameter must be dried for at least 30 days prior to burning.
14. Trees and branches over 2 inches in diameter up to 6 inches in diameter must be dried for at least 60 days prior to burning.
15. Branches and prunings more than 6 inches in diameter must be dried for 180 days.
16. NO tree stumps, root balls, piled grass clippings, piled leaves, or piled conifer needles may be burned.
17. The material to be burned must be arranged to allow air to circulate freely by stacking the material loosely on the ground or pile.
18. Light the downwind side of any pile because this allows the material to burn more thoroughly with less smoke emissions to the atmosphere, and allows better control of the fire.
19. *No burning will be allowed if the smoke impacts neighbors or creates a public nuisance.*

Burning conducted on negative burn days or in violation of the above regulations may result in having this burn permit revoked, a citation issued by the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District and/or the SVFPD. In addition, violators may be charged for the cost of the Fire District response per SVFPD Ordinance no. 2016-1

Rule of Thumb: Anything that grows on your property (with the exception of poison oak/ivy) can be burned on your property if the guidelines above have been followed completely.