



COLFAX NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTIAL BURNING ADVISORY

This advisory is for the residents adjacent to the Colfax Elementary School and the Colfax High School. The Placer County Air Pollution Control District (District) and the Schools' Administration have received complaints from faculty, parents of students and students regarding smoke from residential burning impacting the schools. The open burning of pine needles, leaves and other vegetation in close proximity to the schools is having **adverse health effects** on students during school hours and during after school outdoor activities on campus. This burning creates air pollution that can cause health problems.

The visible smoke from burning is composed of tiny particles that contain a number of pollutants. These pollutants include particulate matter, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons, which contain a number of toxic, irritant and carcinogenic (cancer-causing) compounds. When inhaled, these microscopic particles can reach the deepest regions of the lung and remain there for months or even years. Particulate matter alone can increase the chances of respiratory infection, reduce the volume of air inhaled, impair the lungs' ability to use that air and trigger asthma attacks. Children and the Elderly are particularly at risk.

While outdoor burning is legal on California Air Resources Board declared burn days, as provided by the District Burn Day Information System, smoke impacts from residential burning may be a nuisance and is a violation of District Rule 205, which states:

"A person shall not discharge from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other material which causes injury, detriment, nuisance or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or which endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety of any such persons or the public, or which cause to have natural tendency to cause injury or damage to business or property."

WHILE CHILDREN ARE AT SCHOOL OR PARTICIPATING IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, PLEASE DON'T BURN.

Instead of burning, consider composting. Composting yard waste and using leaves and grass clippings for mulch are alternatives to open burning of yard waste and produces valuable soil fertilizer through the natural process of decomposition. Call the Rotline at 530-889-7399 for more information.

If you must burn, all material must be DRY and the burning must be done with a minimum of smoke. If you must burn, then these should be added slowly to a HOT FLAMING fire. This will avoid a smoking pile of matted leaves, needles and vegetation. Burn on a burn day, and take care to ensure that you do not create a nuisance in violation of District Rules and Regulations.

Remember, beginning May 1st, a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection burn permit is required for all burning.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact District staff at (530) 889-7130.
Thank you for your consideration in this matter.