



AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

Contact: Placer County
Air Pollution Control
District
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For Immediate Release: April 15, 2020

Placer County Air Pollution Control District will temporarily limit burn hours starting Monday, April 20

AUBURN, Calif. -- Effective Monday, April 20, the Placer County Air Pollution Officer, in coordination with the Placer County Health Officer, is implementing temporary restrictions on the allowable hours for residential outdoor burning in Placer County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The goal of this restriction is to help reduce potential smoke impacts, and thus avoid exacerbating symptoms for those who may be sick with or vulnerable to COVID-19 in Placer County, while balancing the need for continued residential burning ahead of the upcoming 2020 wildfire season.

Under this temporary restriction, the Placer County Air Pollution Control District will limit burn hours to 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. on designated burn days. These hours are typically the best time of day for smoke to rise and disperse, which can help to minimize localized smoke impacts and impacts on residents with underlying health impacts that may be more susceptible to COVID-19. Burn piles that burn or smolder later in the evening often produce smoke that can settle and create a nuisance for those in its vicinity.

The District recognizes that these are challenging times for Placer County residents and that every effort needs to be made to support both public health and public safety. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, it remains of paramount importance that efforts to reduce wildfire risk and ensure defensible space continue. The health officer order allows for the maintenance of defensible space. Throughout the Sierra Nevada, residential outdoor burning remains an important tool in preparing Placer County for the summer wildfire season.

This is particularly true for meeting defensible space requirements and managing vegetation on large parcels. With a greater number of residents spending more time at home, it is expected that residents will be able to meet their defensible space obligations and be ready for the upcoming wildfire season, within the designated burn times. In addition, for those areas that do not have green waste pickup, drop-off of green waste at the two transfer stations, Meadow Vista and Foresthill, continues to be an alternative to residential outdoor burning for those who live there.

Residents are also encouraged to check with the Placer County Resource Conservation District for the current status of their chipping program. Information on the current availability of alternatives to burning can be found on the District's website at www.placerair.org/1672/Alternatives-to-Burning.

To find out more information about these changes, as well as to determine the current burn day status, please contact the District at

- 530-889-6868 within the Auburn area
- 800-998-2876 outside the Auburn area
- www.placerair.org/1671/Burn-Days
- Via your Alexa app

These sources will continue to be updated daily and will include the designated burn hours, until this temporary restriction is lifted.

The Placer County Air Pollution Control District is the local air pollution control agency with the same jurisdictional boundary as Placer County. The District's primary responsibility is to manage the county's air quality to protect and promote public health by controlling and seeking reduction of air pollutions, while recognizing and considering the economic and environmental impacts. The District has its own governing Board of Directors that is composed of nine elected officials from local jurisdictions within Placer County.

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