

What Permits Do I Need for Prescribed Fire?

There are 2 types of permits:

- a burn permit and,
- an air quality permit.

Check below to see which ones you'll need for your burn.

What are the burn permit types and where can I get the permit I need?

CAL FIRE requires permits for all types of burning (broadcast, agricultural, and residential pile burning). You will need to apply for a [BURN PERMIT](#) using the CAL FIRE online platform. If you'd prefer a paper application, visit your local CAL FIRE station.

There are 3 general categories of burn permits:

[Residential burn permits](#) LE-62A (4-foot x 4-foot piles)

[General burn permits](#) LE-5 (piles larger than 4'x4' or agricultural burning)

[Broadcast burn permits](#) LE-7/8 (broadcast or underburning in timber litter/grass)



Residential Burn Permit

This permit is intended for the disposal of the combustible or flammable vegetative material from a single- or two-family dwelling unit or residence by burning outdoors in small burn piles, no larger than 4 ft x 4 ft. Residential burning is not agricultural, including prescribed, burning.



General and Broadcast Burn Permits

General Burn (LE-5) and Broadcast Burn (LE-7/8) permits include those for large pile burning, agricultural burns, incinerators, hazardous projects that could cause a fire (such as outdoor welding), and larger controlled applications of fire to the land for fuel reduction purposes. These permits are reviewed by Unit staff and might require a site inspection.

Important: If you are located within city limits of Truckee, please contact Truckee Fire Protection District for specific permit requirements.

[Applications may be obtained through their website](#) and residents must adhere to permissible burn days through their local air district.

To find out whether your burning location is located inside Truckee Fire (LRA), Auburn Fire (LRA) or CAL FIRE’s jurisdiction, please reference [CAL FIRE’s Burn Permit Responsibility Area Viewer website](#).

When do I need a burn permit?

CAL FIRE or local fire districts can require burn permits at any time. But usually there are only certain times you need them, depending on the “season”. In general, there are three burn “seasons” that each have different burn permit requirements.

	Wildfire Season	Permitted Burning Only	Open Burning
Description	When conditions are hot, dry or windy and wildfires are common, CAL FIRE designates wildfire season.	In-between wildfire season and open burning, permits may be required for burning. CAL FIRE or local fire districts decide when permitted burning is allowed. Generally, in the “shoulder” seasons after or before wildfire season. Early fall or late spring/early summer.	When the likelihood of wildfires is low. Generally, in late fall, winter or early spring when there has been some rain or snow and conditions are moist or wet.
Is burning allowed	No* Limited exceptions	Yes, with permits, but it also must be a permissive burn day.	Yes, but it must be a permissive burn day.
Permits	*Permits may be issued on a very limited basis. Exceptions are based on specialized needs or reasons, approved by CAL FIRE or local fire agency on a case-by-case basis. Requirements for water, burn personnel are much higher.	Permits are issued by CAL Fire or the local fire agency. Site visits are mostly required to see if there sufficient pre-burn preparations. Ladder and heavy fuels removed. Proper control lines in place. Pressurized water sources available.	Permits are <i>not</i> required. The landowner is still responsible for burning in an easily controllable way.

When Do I Need an Air Quality Permit?

If you plan on a residential burn of **1 acre or more within a year**, it is required to apply for an Air Pollution Permit in this district. The permit is under “Open Burning” on this permit form page: [Forms - Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District](#).

You can go to the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District website page about [Open Burning](#) for more information on what type of forms are required for different types of non-residential burns.



Julie Hunter, Executive Director

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

200 Litton Drive, Suite 320
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 274-9360 / FAX: (530) 274-7546
www.myaqrdistrict.com

NORTHERN FIELD OFFICE

257 E. Sierra, Unit E
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2227
Portola, CA 96122
(530) 832-0102 / FAX: (530) 832-0101

Air Pollution Permit APPLICATION

Return Application to: office@myairdistrict.com

NOTE: This is NOT an Air Pollution Permit. An Air Pollution Permit is not a valid permit until signed by an Air Pollution Control Specialist. An APCS will call or email you with an approved permit.

Invoices for permits must be paid PRIOR to a permit being issued.

<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURAL BURNING	<input type="checkbox"/> RANGE IMPROVEMENT BURNING	<input type="checkbox"/> WILDLAND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> FORESTRY MGMT. BURNING	<input type="checkbox"/> HAZARD REDUCTION BURNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LAND CLEARING FOR DEVELOPMENT

Applicant: _____		Phone No.: _____
Address: _____		
Email: _____		
Location of Burn Site: _____		T _____ R _____ S _____
		Drying Time: _____ weeks
Landowner: _____		Phone No.: _____
Distance to Nearest Residence: _____	Type of Material to be Burned: _____	
Type of Burn: _____ (Pile or Broadcast)		
Tons/acre: _____	Total # of Piles: _____	Total Acres Involved: _____

AIR DISTRICT BELOW THIS LINE

Permit No.: _____	Date Issued: _____	Expiration Date: _____
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FEE AMOUNT _____	<input type="checkbox"/> CASH	<input type="checkbox"/> CC	<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK # _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Permittee MUST obtain a Project Burn Permit from CalFire / USFS when Burn Permits are required

Any person who violates Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Rules and Regulations is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the County Jail not exceeding 12 months and/or a fifty thousand dollar (\$50,000) fine. The cost of putting out any unauthorized open outdoor fire may be imposed on any person when applicable. I have read and fully understand the conditions of this permit. I understand I could be liable in the event the fire creates a nuisance, a hazard or escapes control. I also understand noncompliance with the conditions of this permit may result in the assessment of penalties pursuant to Air District rules and the California Health & Safety Code §42400 et seq.

By signing this application, you are verifying all information is correct and understand you may not burn until receipt of permit signed by an APCS.

Signature: _____ Issued by: _____

Title: _____

I have my permits; can I go ahead and burn?

You'll need to check if it's a burn day. Residents wishing to burn MUST verify it is a permissive burn day prior to burning by contacting their local air district. For Nevada County, you can check if it's a permissive burn day at <https://www.myairdistrict.com/burn-day-status>. If you are broadcast burning, you will need to get a burn permit from the air district as well.

Nevada County Residents: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District 530-274-7928

In the Truckee area, you may be in Placer County. Go to <https://www.truckeefire.org/>