

Cal Fire reminds property owners about hazard reduction burn rules

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The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection on April 23 announced burn rules for the Mountain Area, encouraging eastern Madera County residents to continue their hazard reduction burning while setting Friday, May 1 as the date burn permits are required in Mariposa County.

Unlike past years, Cal Fire stations will not be issuing permits in keeping with coronavirus-related social distancing guideline, the agency says.

Eastern Madera County

For eastern Madera County residents, a burn permit is not required but Cal Fire says valid San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District permits are required and can be obtained by contacting the air district at 559-230-6000 or valleyair.org.

Hazard reduction fires are permitted only when the air district signals a burn day. And Cal Fire might prohibit burns when there is an elevated risk of wildfire danger.

Cal Fire gave its requirements for lighting a hazard reduction burn:

- Property owners are responsible for checking the burn day status by calling the air district before igniting their hazard reduction pile. (Madera County Burn Information Line: 877-429-2876)
- Do not burn material that is wet or damp, it can cause excessive smoke that is prohibited and will result in penalties.
- Provide adequate clearance (minimum of within 10 feet of the outer edge of the pile) to keep adequate control over the fire.
- Have a water supply close to the pile.
- An adult must be in attendance until the fire is put out.
- Do not burn on windy days.
- Do not use any flammable liquid (such as gasoline or diesel fuel) to ignite a fire.
- Make sure the burn pile is free of prohibited materials: no household trash, garbage or construction materials.
- Burn only natural vegetation removed while maintaining a defensible space.
- Burning anything in a burn barrel is illegal.

Mariposa County

Mariposa County residents can request a Cal Fire permit online at burnpermit.fire.ca.gov or by calling the Mariposa Headquarters, 209-966-3622. Mariposa County residents must check the burn day status by calling the information line, 209-966-1200, or the Mariposa County Air Pollution Control District, 209-966-2220.

For more information, visit the Cal Fire website at fire.ca.gov or ReadyForWildfire.org.