

**CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION (831) 479-6843**

**Backyard Burn Regulations
December 1, 2017 – April 30, 2018**

1. Fires for disposal of only the following dry natural vegetation originating from and being burned on the premises of a single or two-family dwelling with a parcel size of ½ an acre or more: plant prunings, shrubbery, tree trimmings or small branches within a 2" diameter, weeds. **Note: piled materials made of grass clippings, leaves and conifer needles or stumps are prohibited from being burned due to their potential for excessive smoke emissions.** No dimensional lumber or any materials other than dry natural vegetation may be burned.
2. The materials shall be arranged in small piles to facilitate burning and **shall be free** of waste material such as tires, rubbish, tar paper, plastic, **poison oak**, construction material, household garbage, etc. Again, household waste **cannot** be burned at residences. The use of burn barrels is also **NOT** allowed. The use of any combustible and/or flammable liquids such as starting fuels is expressly prohibited.
3. Open burning shall not be conducted within 50 feet of any building, structure, property line, or other combustible materials. Conditions, which could cause the fire to spread within 50 feet of any structure, shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
4. Burn piles are recommended to be no larger than **4-feet in diameter and 4-feet high**. Clear all flammable material and vegetation within 10-feet of the outer edge of the burn pile.
5. An adult must be in attendance at all times until the fire is extinguished. A water source or other approved fire extinguishing equipment, such as a fire extinguisher, dirt, sand, garden hose, water barrel or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization. Fire fighting tools such as a shovel, rake, hoe, etc. will also need to be at the burn site.
6. NO burning shall take place for 72 hours after any rain totaling 0.25 inches or greater unless the piles were covered and the material is dry and reasonably free of visible surface moisture prior to burning. **NO** green or wet backyard trimmings can be added to the burn piles.
7. Light the downwind side of any pile. This will allow the material to burn more thoroughly with less smoke emissions to the atmosphere, and make for better control of the fire.
8. The fire code official is authorized to require that open burning be immediately discontinued if the fire official determines that smoke emissions are offensive to the occupants of the surrounding property or if the open burning is determined by the fire official to constitute a hazardous condition.

This information in no way relieves your responsibilities to neighboring properties and to burn in the prescribed manner.

No person shall allow a fire kindled or attended by him or her to escape his or her control. Failure to burn within the requirements of the law may result in a citation and you may be liable for all suppression costs.

**IF YOU BELIEVE A FIRE IS OUT OF CONTROL,
OR IS GETTING OUT OF CONTROL
CALL "911"**