

# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

## San Diego Unit



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**RELEASE**  
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## **Agricultural Burn Hours Extended in San Diego and Imperial Counties**

**El Cajon-** Effective Wednesday, January 4th at 8:00 A.M., agricultural and residential burning in San Diego and Imperial Counties will be extended. CAL FIRE San Diego Unit Chief Tony Mecham is formally extending the burn hours from 8:00 A.M – 3:00 PM. Agriculture burns must be inspected by CAL FIRE prior to burning and inspections may be required for burns other than agriculture burns as well. This can be verified by contacting your local Air Quality Management District.

While cooler temperatures and recent rains have helped to diminish the threat of wildfire, we are still in our fifth year of drought. Property owners and residents are asked to use caution while conducting debris or agriculture burns. Always use caution when burning, follow all guidelines provided, and maintain control of the fire at all times. Individuals can be held civilly and/or criminally liable for allowing a fire to escape their control and/or burn onto neighboring property.

**Residents wishing to burn MUST verify it is a permissive burn day prior to burning by calling your local CAL FIRE Fire Station or AQMD at 858-586-2600.**

### **Pile Burning Requirements**

- Only dry, natural vegetative material such as leaves, pine needles and tree trimmings may be burned.
- The burning of trash, painted wood or other debris is not allowed.
- Do **NOT** burn on windy days.
- Piles should be no larger than four feet in diameter and in height. You can add to the pile as it burns down.
- Clear a 10 foot diameter down to bare soil around your piles.
- Have a shovel and a water source nearby.
- An adult is required to be in attendance of the fire at all times.

Safe residential pile burning of forest residue by landowners is a crucial tool in reducing fire hazards. State, Federal and Local land management and fire agencies will also be utilizing this same window of opportunity to conduct prescribed burns aimed at improving forest health on private and public lands.

For more information on burning, visit the CAL FIRE website at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov).

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