

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



POLICY: GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY – NEIGHBOR NOTIFICATION AND TRAFFIC RE-ROUTING PROCEDURES FOR AGRICUTURAL BURNING

DATE: April 7, 2010

POLICY NUMBER: 37

GENERAL

Agricultural burning refers to the intentional use of fire for vegetation management, and also that which is defined in Rule 101. This policy establishes step procedures to be followed for the proper notification and traffic re-routing to reduce agricultural burning impact to our residents.

A. NEIGHBOR NOTIFICATION

In addition to the provisions in Rule 701, Agricultural Burning and Policy 34, Agricultural Burning Procedures, burning of any agricultural field(s) which contains one or more inhabited dwelling(s) is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to any proposed scheduling of an agricultural burn, the owner or operator of an agricultural field shall identify any inhabited residences located within a ½ mile of the agricultural field.
2. The owner or operator adjacent to a proposed agricultural field burn, must give a 2 (two) day written notice to all potentially impacted residences within a ½ mile of the agricultural field. The written notice shall stipulate that the field has received permission to burn by the APCD and has been scheduled to burn. In addition, the notice shall indicate precautionary measures intended to reduce the impact of smoke and shall advise residents with respiratory problems and children to take precautionary measures during the burning of the field. A sample notice form (Appendix 10) is available at the ICAPCD office and via the web at www.imperialcounty.net
3. At least one hour prior to the igniting of the field, the owner or operator of an agricultural field which has received permission to burn by the ICAPCD shall notify any residences located adjacent to the boundary line of the agricultural field the actual time of burn. Resident notification shall be verbal or written if the resident is not located at the time of notification.

B. TRAFFIC RE-ROUTING

In addition to the provisions in Rule 701, Agricultural Burning, burning of any agricultural field located contiguous or adjacent to a freeway or any public traveled roads is subject to the following conditions:


1. The owner or operator of an agricultural field that has received permission to burn by the ICAPCD shall maintain a sufficient number of competent persons available to caution or direct traffic in the event that smoke obscures the road(s) adjacent to the burn.
2. Persons responsible for cautioning or directing traffic shall use precautionary flags to alert drivers of the smoke impacted road and shall stay at the site until the agricultural burn has ceased.
3. Persons responsible for cautioning or directing traffic shall provide drivers with clear directions for alternative routes at the nearest intersection prior to the smoke impacted roadway.

C. REMINDERS

The ICAPCD would like to remind all burners and responsible agents of agricultural burning that the United States Department of Occupational Safety & Health Administration has specific regulations for assuring the proper safety of workers in agriculture. For more information please visit <http://www.osha.gov/>

Should any emergency arise requiring the assistance of Fire, Police or medical emergency services please do not call the ICAPCD but dial 911.

Under a voluntary basis, the Farm Bureau will be providing educational training sessions to all responsible agents and burners of agricultural burning. You can acquire more information by visiting <http://www.icfb.net/> or by calling (760) 352-3831.



Brad Poiriez
Air Pollution Control Officer

SAMPLE FORM

Good Neighbor Policy Notice

Today's Date _____

Contact Name _____ Telephone _____

Depending on weather conditions a scheduled burn may not occur

BURN LOCATION

Street _____ City _____

Canal & Gate _____

Crossroads _____ and _____

Crop _____ Acres/Tons _____

Date of Scheduled Burn _____ Time _____

How to Protect Your Family from the Health Effects of Smoke

-Use common sense. If it looks smoky outside, it's probably not a good time to mow the lawn or go for a run. And it's probably not a good time for your children to play outdoors.

-If you are advised to stay indoors, take steps to keep indoor air as clean as possible. Keep your windows and doors closed.

-Run your air conditioner. Keep the fresh air intake closed and the filter clean to prevent bringing additional smoke inside. Note: If you don't have an air conditioner, staying inside with the windows closed may be dangerous in extremely hot weather. In these cases, seek alternative shelter.

-Pay attention to local air quality reports and stay alert to any news coverage or health warnings related to smoke.

-If you have heart or lung disease, if you are an older adult, or if you have children, talk with your doctor about whether and when you should leave the area. When smoke is heavy for a prolonged period of time, fine particles can build up indoors even though you may not be able to see them.