Examples of Prescribed Burning in Imperial County

Imperial Wildlife Area, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Niland, CA) – In partnership with CAL FIRE firefighters, conducts annual prescribed burning to improve rangeland and wildlife habitats of salt marshes, freshwater ponds, and desert scrub.

Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, US Fish and Wildlife Service (Calipatria, CA) – The USFWS firefighters and fire management crew assist the with conducting annual prescribed burning to preserve the vital wetlands and grasslands to support a plethora of migratory birds along the Pacific flyway in winter season.

Senator Wash Reservoir, Bureau of Land Management (Winterhaven, CA) – Conducts prescribed burning in the winter season to reduce wildfire hazards by piling vegetation composed of tamarisk, mesquite, and palo verdes.

Prescribed burning in Imperial County takes many forms and involves multiple agencies. The public is encouraged to explore the county's diverse landscape and seasonal burning activities to better understand their benefits to Imperial County.



Prescribed burning is one of the most important tools used to manage fire today. As catastrophic wildfires continue to be a growing concern in California, the use of prescribed burning to reduce hazardous fuels is projected to increase.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

California Air Resources Board is the funding source of the Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Program.

ICAPCD IMPERIAL COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

Imperial County Air Pollution Control District is the local agency responsible for the Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Program.

For any questions, please contact ICAPCD at (442) 265-1800.

PRESCRIBED BURNING INFORMATION

Imperial County



CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

ICAPCD IMPERIAL COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



What is Prescribed Burning?

Prescribed burning is the controlled application of fire to the land to:

- Reduce wildfire hazards
- Clear downed trees
- Control plant diseases
- Improve habitats
- Restore natural ecosystems

Prescribed burning **requires careful planning** by the local air district and under controlled conditions by burn managers to conduct under favorable atmospheric conditions.

Daily burn decisions are issued based on the forecast of air quality and forecast of meteorological conditions that can affect smoke dispersion.

Smoke Management Planning

Effective smoke management requires appropriate planning prior to conducting a prescribed burn.

There are no permit fees associated with Prescribed Burning in Imperial County.

Before burning is allowed, a burner must complete the following planning steps:

1 Submit a smoke management plan (SMP) to the air district.

2 Obtain the air district's approval of the SMP.

3 Register an ignition request with the local air district.

4 Obtain a burn permit from the local air district and/or responsible fire agency.

The SMP is an assessment of the air quality, meteorological, and fuel conditions of the proposed burn.

If not carefully planned, **smoke can contribute to levels of pollution that exceed air quality standards.**

Obtaining Burn Authorization

After the air district approves all burn planning requirements, the burner may begin making final preparations.

The burner may **contact the air district up to 96 hours prior** to the desired burn time to obtain a forecast of the meteorology and air quality needed to safely conduct the burn.

Air District authorization to conduct a prescribed burn is provided to the burner no more than **24 hours prior to the burn.**

Conducting Prescribed Burns

The burner is responsible for assuring that all conditions in the approved SMP and burn permit are met throughout the burn.

Once the fire has been ignited burners must make all reasonable efforts to ensure the burn stays within its smoke plan prescription.

If a burn goes out of its prescription the burner will implement smoke mitigation measures as described in the **approved** SMP.