

Subject:	Burn Status	
Effective:	2/3/2015	Procedure
Updated:	1/5/2018, 6/30/2018, 1/7/2019, 8/20/2019	
Reference:		

PURPOSE

To establish how to disseminate the burn status for the following day.

PROCEDURE

There are four “Burn Zones” within Santa Barbara County. They are named the North Coastal Zone, the North Inland Zone, the South Central Coast Zone Above 3,000 feet and the South Central Coast Zone below 3,000 feet. Each zone will have its own recommendation for burning.

Every day after 1500 the Duty Captain will make contact with the Duty Chief to evaluate the risk factors and determine the burn status for each zone. Once the burn status decision has been made, the Duty Captain will advise the fire dispatcher.

The Duty Chief is authorized to make the final decision for the burn status in the County. For example, if there is a wind advisory in a particular zone, it would likely be deemed a “no burn day” for that particular zone.

1. Sundays and holidays, defined as nationally recognized holidays, will always be “No Burn” days.
 - a. “No Burn” holidays are New Year’s Day, Martin Luther’s King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

2. The fire dispatcher (or their designee) will note the burn status for each Burn Zone in the Dispatcher C A D Notes and will also note the burn status for each Burn Zone on the white dry-erase board on the north wall of the Dispatch Center.
 - a. On the white dry-erase board, a “yes” or “no” for each Burn Zone will be written after each zone to indicate whether or not burning is permitted in that zone. Refer to the map on the last page to view the different Burn Zones.
 - i. As a courtesy, the fire dispatcher may relay the burn status to Santa Barbara City Fire Department and South Coast Fire Dispatch via their ring-down lines.

3. The fire dispatcher is responsible for updating the Santa Barbara County Fire Burn Status Line recording by 1800 with the burn status for each zone for the

following day.

- a. To record the current burn status on the message mailboxes, do the following as prompted, or as necessary. **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REDACTED:**

[REDACTED]

- iv. Record the Burn Status Message. *Example: "This is Santa Barbara County Fire with the burn status for *Wednesday, January 18th. It is a permissive burn day in all areas of the County. Burning in the Santa Ynez Valley may not commence until 10:00 a.m. **Repeating, this is Santa Barbara County Fire with the burn status for Wednesday, January 18th. It is a permissive burn day in all areas of the County. Burning in the Santa Ynez Valley may not commence until 10:00 a.m."*

*Make sure to include the day and date of the burn status.

**The reason we need to repeat the information is that the automatic switchboard sometimes has a connection delay and the caller may not come on line until the message is almost finished the first time through.

- v. If one or more of the zones are designated as "no burn", they must be specifically mentioned in the recording. *Example: "This is Santa Barbara County Fire with the burn status for *Wednesday, January 18th. Burning is permitted in all zones, except for above 3,000 feet. Burning in the Santa Ynez Valley may not commence until 10:00 a.m. (then do the repeat)."*
 - vi. *Another example: "This is Santa Barbara County Fire with the burn status for *Wednesday, January 18th. Burning is permitted in the North Coastal Zone only, no burning is allowed in all other zones (then do the repeat)."*
- b. If it is HIGH FIRE SEASON, use the following wording on permissive burn days: *"The air resources board has determined that (insert day and date) is a permissive burn day for agricultural burns only. If you hold a high fire hazard or backyard burn permit, burning operations are not permitted for the duration of high fire season."*
 - c. For NO BURN days, use the following wording: *"This is Santa Barbara County Fire with the burn status for (insert day and date). It is a no burn day in all zones in Santa Barbara County. Repeating (insert day and date) is a no burn day for all zones in Santa Barbara County."*
 - d. Press # to save the message and hang up. The Burn Status has now been recorded.

4. Anyone who wants to ascertain the burn status can call 805-686-8177 directly.