



# News Release

## **MONTEREY BAY**

Unified Air Pollution Control District

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Issued 12 PM • April 26, 2010

## **Backyard Burn Season Ends May 1**

Friday, April 30, 2010 is the last day of the backyard burn season in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties.

From May 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup> backyard burning and development burning are **not** allowed. Backyard burns are fires to dispose of dry vegetation grown in the yard of a single- or two-family residence. Development burns are fires to dispose of dry vegetation cleared from commercial or residential developments.

Backyard and development burning are prohibited during the summer and fall because of increased air pollution and fire danger during these months. Burning vegetation emits carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and hydrocarbons into the air, and some of these pollutants combine to form ozone and smog. Exposure to air pollution can cause health effects ranging from irritation of the eyes, nose and throat to respiratory disease. These exposures can also aggravate existing health conditions such as asthma and emphysema.

The burn season restriction **does not** prohibit agricultural burning, recreational and ceremonial fires, or use of in-home fireplaces/wood stoves and outdoor barbecues.

### **Air District Encourages Cleaner Alternatives to Burning**

Open burning of wood wastes releases a substantial amount of air pollution. The Air District encourages everyone to use cleaner methods whenever possible:

- utilize weekly green waste pick-up service
- composting
- chipping
- use grazing animals – e.g. goats
- transport waste vegetation to landfills where it is chipped into mulch.

For more information, please contact Betsy Hibbits, Smoke Management Coordinator, at (831) 647-9411 ext. 213.

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