

Preparing for Backyard/Pile Burning



Why Should I Reduce Smoke From My Pile Burning?

Many of your neighbors may be sensitive to smoke. They may have lung problems such as asthma or COPD that are increased when they breath smoke. Each year the Mariposa County Air Pollution Control District receives numerous calls from residents that can not enjoy the day because of smoke from their neighbors' pile burning.

How Can I Reduce Smoke From My Pile Burning?

1) Use an alternative to burning such as chipping and/or composting.

For information on a local chipping and brushing program, please call:

Mariposa County Fire Safe Council 209-966-7700

2) If you feel like you have to burn, then only burn **DRY**, loosely piled materials. Cover piles before it rains so the material burns hotter and with less smoke. If your pile is putting off more smoke than flame, fluff the pile with a rake or pitch fork so more air flow can occur.

3) **Leave the Leaves** - Burning wet leaves and pine needles results in a very smoky pile and should never be burned. It is best to let them decompose back into the soil. Thoroughly dried needles may be added to piles of woody debris rather than burning by themselves.

What Can Be Burned & When?

Burning dry vegetation waste (brush piles) at a residence is still allowed on permitted burn days, but composting and chipping is best for your health and the environment.

What CANNOT Be Burned?

If it did not grow on the property where it is being burned, it is illegal to burn. Materials that **CANNOT** be legally burned include (but are not limited to) the following:

Household garbage, paper, cardboard, painted or stained wood, plywood, particleboard or Oriented Strand Board (OSB), roofing materials, construction & demolition debris, furniture, clothing, diapers, plastics, tires, rubber, tarpaper, insulation, paint, paint cans or containers, waste oil, electrical wire, glass bottles & cans, animal carcasses, feces, and styrofoam.

For information on local permitted burn days please call:

209-966-1200 or 1-888-440-BURN

Mariposa County Health Department, Air Pollution Control District

<http://www.mariposacounty.org/health>

209-966-2220 or 1-888-777-0377