Pile Burning

The following are burning requirements:
For burning material in small 4-feet x 4-feet piles:

- Maximum pile size 4 foot in diameter.
- Clear all flammable material and vegetation within 10-feet of the outer edge of pile.
- Keep a water supply close to the burning site.
- An adult should be in attendance with a shovel until the fire is out.
- No burning shall be undertaken unless weather conditions (particularly wind) are such that burning can be considered safe.

No household trash or garbage can be burned outdoors at residences. Dry, natural vegetation, grown on the property can still be burned outdoors in open piles, unless prohibited by local ordinances. Burning can only be done on permissive burn days. Burn permits are only valid on “Permissive Burn Days” as determined by the State Air Resources Board or the local Air Pollution Control District (APCD).
Guidelines for Pile Burning

Start after 8:00 am and extinguished by 4:00 pm. Do not add any additional material to pile after 3:00 pm.

Only ignite the material that you can burn before 4:00 pm.

Have adequate fire tools onsite and functional.

Adequate water to extinguish fire and potential escape.

A responsible adult shall always be in attendance to monitor your fire until it is out.

Pile no bigger then 4’x4’ nor taller then 4’.

If you plan on burning piles larger then above – request an inspection from your local fire station and a permit might be necessary.

Bare mineral soil clearance at least 10’ wide around each pile.

Burn only cured (dry) material.

Do not burn trash.

Don’t burn anything other than vegetative matter.

Only burn on “burn days” set by:

Santa Cruz County
Monterey Bay Area Unified Air Pollution Control District
1-800-225-2876

San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
1-800-435-7247

Contact your local Air District (See above) before burning.

Don’t burn on windy days or days with low relative humidity (Red Flag).

Always call your local fire station before you start.

Follow all applicable Local and State fire and air quality rules and regulations when burning.

If your fire escapes your control and we have to suppress it, you will be liable for suppression costs and potential criminal prosecution.