

NOTICE

Rossmoor Bar Training Burn

May 20 and May 21

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, in cooperation with the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks, Recreation & Open Space, will train local firefighters in wildlands fire suppression techniques, in the field west of Rossmoor Drive and south of the bike trail in the American River Parkway on May 20 and 21, 2004.

The training will be conducted as a series of small burns over two days. Burning will not take place unless the weather, wind and fuel conditions are safe and suitable.

Reasons to Burn at Rossmoor Bar

- Prescribed burns reduce plant fuels and the risk of catastrophic wildfires, which can cause property and resource damage;
- A spring burn can improve habitat quality and recreation values of parkland by destroying weeds like Yellow Starthistle and encouraging native plant growth.
- Neighborhoods near fire-prone wildlands depend on skilled firefighters for protection;
- Firefighters need to practice the skills of wildfire suppression in urban wildlands;
- This site provides a particularly safe location for training, with minimal impacts or risk to adjacent residents and resources.



A well-timed training burn benefits both public safety and natural resources.

More information is available by calling:

- Mr. Pat Ellis, Public Information Officer, Sacramento Metro Fire Dept at 616-2431
- Mr. Dave Lydick, Chief Ranger, Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks, Recreation and Open Space at 875-6548

Planning an Integrated Training Burn

Introduction

Introduction

Our community is engaged in a process to create training opportunities for local fire departments that can benefit both public safety and our natural resources. By integrating training and ecological objectives, a single wildlands burn can provide essential, hands-on experience for firefighters and help control invasive, non-native plants.

While the challenge of protecting property and resources from urban wildfires is growing, opportunities to practice wildlands firefighting skills are shrinking. Our community is exploring a cooperative approach that integrates multiple interests and resources into a solution – the integrated training burn.

The goal of coordinating an integrated training burn is to strategically select areas to conduct fire training operations, where natural resources can benefit from the effects of the fire, while minimizing impacts or risks to public health and safety.

Purpose

There are several reasons to take an integrated approach to training burns:

- Neighborhoods near fire-prone wildlands depend on skilled firefighters for protection;
 - Firefighters need to practice the skills of wildfire suppression in urban wildlands.;
 - Prescribed burns reduce plant fuels and the risk of catastrophic wildfires, which can cause property and resource damage;
 - A spring burn can improve habitat quality and recreation values of parkland by destroying weeds like Yellow Starthistle and encouraging native plant growth.
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Purpose of this document

Integrated training burns are new to our area, so there is no simple formula for success. Participants must be prepared to work with people who may not have reached a comfort level with prescribed burns in an urbanized area. We are all learning together how to make this work, so there is a real need for good communication and patience.

While each burn plan will have specific circumstances and objectives that affect the planning process, the goal of this document is to outline the general process of conducting an integrated training burn in Sacramento County. The detailed plan for conducting the _____ burn on [Date] appears toward the end of this document.

Comments?

Please contact _____ with comments or questions about this document at _____.

The Players

The Burn Team

The Burn Team consists of all of the agencies and individuals that play a role in the planning and execution of an integrated training burn. At a minimum the following parties should be identified and consulted during the process of planning a training burn in the Sacramento area:

- Owner or manager(s) of the property – local, state and/or federal, *Example:* The Sacramento County Dept. of Regional Parks, Recreation & Open Space
- County Agriculture Commissioner’s agricultural burn staff
- Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) (Note: The fire department should handle all communication with the SMAQMD for training burns.)
- Local fire district personnel tasked with training operations and specific training burns
- Adjacent neighbors who could feel impacted by the burn
- Public officials, e.g., City Council, County Board of Supervisors
- Public information officers and media contacts
- National Weather Service – for long-term and near-term weather affecting burn conditions including fuel moisture, wind speed and direction, and air mass characteristics
- California Department of Fish & Game, District 2 – For issues related to natural resource impacts and habitat improvement burns
- Burn Team Coordinator – For facilitation of the burn planning process and communication among participants and effected parties

A Burn Team Coordinator (the BTC) must be designated to coordinate the burn from start to finish. The Coordinator will assist the team by formulating a Burn Plan that identifies actions, responsibilities, and schedules. The BTC cedes control of individual tasks to other members of the team, as identified in the specific burn plan.

The Players, continued

Contact information

The following contact information is provided in alphabetical order to assist with coordination and communication.

Name	Contact Info	Representing	Responsibilities
		California Native Plant Society	Botanical survey of site; Lunch for fire crew
		Friends of Mather Park & Homeowners Association of Mather Independence	Liaison to interests of residents and advocates for burns at Mather Regional Park
		Sacramento Metro Fire District	Principal burn planner; Planning/Ignition operations; Firefighter/Paramedic
		County Parks ag leasee	Disc fire breaks and maintain ag lease area
		Burn coordinator, ecologist	Community-based facilitation of burn planning process; Habitat evaluation and ecological recommendations
		Sac County Parks Dept.	Staff ecologist; natural resource specialist
		Sac Metro Fire District	Incident Commander
		Sac Metro Fire District	Public Information Officer
		Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD)	Enforce Rule 501; Declares “spare the air day”- overrides “burn day”

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The Players, continued

Contact Information Table (continued)			
Name	Contact Info	Representing	Responsibilities
		Sac County Municipal Services Agency	Public Information Officer for County Parks
		Sac Metro Fire District	Operations
		Sac County Parks Dept.	Deputy Director of American River Parkway
		Sac County Parks Dept.	Park Ranger; Logistics for burns in Co. Parks
		Sac County Parks Dept.	Deputy Director of Sac Co. Regional Parks
		California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), Region 2	Prepare “desirable and proper” letter for habitat improvement burn
		Sac Metro Fire District	Logistics; Engineer/paramedic
		Sacramento County Agriculture Commissioner	Manages burn permits; Dispatch declares “burn day” each morning

The Rules

Burn regulations

Prescribed burns are regulated under various rules and regulations, depending on the nature and objectives of the burn. If the primary purpose of a proposed burn is to achieve:

- Habitat improvement - The burn should be conducted and permitted as a habitat improvement burn.
 - Wildlands firefighting training - The burn should be managed by the fire department under rules governing training operations.
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Habitat improvement burns

The request for a habitat improvement burn permit should first be directed to the Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. The Ag Commissioner's office coordinates the Agricultural Burn Program for the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD).

Under Section 309 of Rule 501 of the SMAQMD, "If agricultural burning is done primarily to improve land for wildlife habitat or game habitat, the permit holder shall file with the designated agency [in this case, the Ag Commissioner] a statement from the Department of Fish and Game [CDFG] certifying that the burn is desirable and proper."

A request for this certification letter should be made directly to the District 2 Office of CDFG. As it is not a common request, you can facilitate the process by writing the letter yourself and submitting it for review and signature by CDFG staff. The recipient's address should be:

Mr. Frank Carl
Agriculture Commissioner of Sacramento County
4137 Branch Center Road
Sacramento, CA 95827-3897

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The Rules, continued

Training burns

Under a Health and Safety Code Section 41800 exemption, fire departments may burn vegetation without a burn permit in order to prevent a fire hazard. They also may conduct “training burns” to train personnel to control fires, without first obtaining a burn permit from the County Agriculture Commissioner.

Through integrated planning, it may be possible to select a time and location for a training burn that simultaneously accomplishes both training and vegetation management objectives. As long as the primary purpose of the burn is to train firefighters, the burn can be conducted under the rules defined for training burns.

Rossmoor Bar Training Burn Plan

Advance Planning Timeline

Advanced planning actions

The Rossmoor Bar Training Burn scheduled for May 20 and 21, 2004 serves as a pilot project for this integrated approach to training burns. This plan details the planning process by listing: What to do (Tasks); Who should do it (Key Person); When it should be started (Start Time); and by when it should be completed (Completion Date).

Projected completion dates that have not yet been reached (or confirmed) are identified with shading.

Step #	Tasks	Start Time	Key Person	Completion Date(s)
1	Consult with County Parks or other land managers to identify candidate sites; develop burn objectives; identify desirable outcomes, potential problems, off-site impacts and ways to mitigate them. Identify Co. Parks representatives to the burn team.	8 – 12 mths	Butler	4/14/03 1/16/04
2	Meet with fire department to identify training needs, schedule and constraints. Identify possible “burn windows”. Identify principal burn planner (from fire dept.) and other representatives to the burn team.	8 mths	Butler Wagner	2/13/04
3	Conduct site visit with principal burn planner. Discuss logistics, constraints, contingency plans, command structure and responsibilities.	4 mths	Butler Ball Wagner	2/13/04
4	Complete Event Action Plan (EAP) = Draft burn plan	3 mths	Ball	4/30/04
5	Contact Sac Metro Air Quality Management District and Ag Commissioner to confirm permit status and regulatory requirements for training burn. <i>Note- If primary objective is habitat improvement, commence Section 309 permitting process: secure CDFG letter; solicit permit from Ag Commissioner</i>	3 mths 8 mths	Butler Ball	7-14-03 5-3-04
6	Develop habitat assessment plan. Identify short- and long-term management and monitoring needs of site. Determine why, how and when monitoring will be conducted.	3 mths	Butler Adams Burwell	4/30/04

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Advance Planning Timeline, continued

Step #	Tasks	Start Time	Key Person	Completion Date
7	<p>Meet with entire Burn Team. Record contact information for members.</p> <p><u>Discuss:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft burn plan and logistics • Resource assessment needs for site • Public information approach and outlets • Notification plan for managers, regulatory agencies and law enforcement <p><u>Identify:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible parties and chain of command 	2 mths	Butler Ball	4/30/04
8	Plan public outreach, stakeholder meeting for neighbors and interested parties	2 mths		NA
8	Finalize Event Action Plan (Burn Plan)	3 wks	Ball	5-12-04
9	Create an informational flyer (with site map) for: Posting at the site, delivery to adjacent land-owners, posting on websites. Distribute for review and comment.	4 wks	Butler	5-17-04
10	Finalize informational flyer. Distribute to outlets.	2 wks	Butler	5-18-04
11	Conduct vegetation assessment. Check for archeological sites and potential hazards. Map sensitive resources: no-drive zones, plants and other resources to be protected.	2 wks	Butler	5-13-04
	Provide sensitive resources map to land manager and principal burn planner.	2 wks	Butler Adams	5-18-04
12	Request press release from fire department PIO.	3 wks	Ball	5-3-04
	Prepare a press release and provide to County Parks for distribution to local papers.	2 wks	Ellis	?
13	Solicit funding and volunteers to provide lunches for fire crews on day(s) of burn.	2 wks	Butler	5-17-04
14	Email regular users of impacted areas or access roads, bike trails, etc., e.g., SABA	2 wks	Lydick	5-19-04

Final Preparations

Final steps This table identifies steps to be taken in the final days leading up to initiation of the burn.

Step #	Tasks	Start Time	Key Person	Completion Date
15	Provide information package to PIOs of selected agencies; Solicit their assistance in dissemination.	1 wk	Kukkola	5-18-04
16	Notify Board of Supervisors of burn.	1 wk	Kukkola	5-18-04
17	Post information flyers at site.	1 wk	Lydick	5-18-04
18	Distribute flyers to adjacent residences & businesses.	3 days	Butler Hartle	5-19-04
19	Communicate burn plans to law enforcement agencies and dispatchers (who might receive reports of the burn from citizens) Fire Dispatch CHP (receive cell phone fire reports) Sheriff (Fair Oaks calls) Park Rangers Rancho Cordova Police	2 days	Lydick	5-19-04
20	Inform Ag Commissioner and Sac Metro AQMD of burn dates/times.	2 days	Butler	5-19-04
21	Final check on media coverage	1-2 days	Ellis	5-19-04

Burn Day Action Plan

Final preparations This table identifies tasks to be conducted on each of the two burn days, May 20 and 21.

Step #	Tasks	Time	Key Person	Completion Date/Time
22	<u>Go / No-Go Decision</u> : Monitor current and predicted weather and fire conditions and determine if burn meets prescription detailed in the Event Action Plan.	8:00 am	Ball	
23	<u>Eva Butler</u> : Call Eva to report burn plan status.	8:00	Ball	
24	<u>Ag Commissioner</u> : Call dispatch at 875-6603 to see if it is an approved burn day or a “spare the air day”. Ask to be put on the burn calendar for the day. <u>SMAQMD</u> : Notify Susan Engstrom 916-874-4815	9:00 am	Ball	
25	<u>Inform County Parks Liaison</u> : Contact Dave Lydick to let him know if the burn will occur.	9:30 am	Ball	
26	<u>Inform County Parks Manager</u> : Inform Gary Kukkola when/if the burn will occur.	10:00 am	Lydick	
27	<u>County Public relations</u> : Call pre-notified Public Information Officers that the burn will occur today. Contact any other parties that you should notify.	10:00 am	Kukkola	
28	<u>County Fire Dispatch</u> : When you start firing operations, call County Fire Dispatch at 228-3035 so they can respond to reports of a fire.	When fire starts	Ball	
29	<u>Media</u> : If you planned media coverage, contact the reporter(s) who will be covering the story. Have someone on site to talk with reporters.	8:00 am	Ellis	
30	<u>Refreshments</u> : Provide drinks and sandwiches for lunch, compliments of the California Native Plant Society.	12:00	Adams	
31	<u>Debrief</u> : Call Eva to report results of the day.	4:00 pm	Ball	
31	<u>Wrap up</u> : Follow-up with stakeholders and Burn Team members to identify any problems. Make notes about suggested improvements for next time.	May 24th	Butler Ball	