

PLUMAS UNDERBURN COOPERATIVE - Plumas County Landowner Burn Permit Decision Matrix



SEASON:	WINTER (Open Burning)						SPRING (Permitted Burning)					
Tentative dates:	From Nov./Dec. through May 1st						From May through declaration of wildfire season					
Issuing Agency:	CAL FIRE			NSAQMD			CAL FIRE			NSAQMD		
Situation	Permit required	Cost	Good for...	Permit required	Cost**	Good for...	Permit required	Cost	Good for...	Permit required	Cost**	Good for...
I'm burning one pile 4'x4' x4' or smaller	not required	n/a	n/a	not required	n/a	n/a	Residential Burn Permit	free	1 year	not required	n/a	n/a
I'm burning multiple piles 4'x4'x4' or smaller	not required	n/a	n/a	not required	n/a	n/a	Residential Burn Permit	free	1 year	not required	n/a	n/a
I'm burning one or more piles larger than 4'x4'x4'	not required	n/a	n/a	not required	n/a	n/a	LE-5 Permit	free	~2 weeks	not required	n/a	n/a
I'm underburning 1 acre of land or less	not required	n/a	n/a	not required	n/a	n/a	LE-7 Permit	free	~2 weeks	not required	n/a	n/a
I'm underburning between 1 and 9.9 acres of land	not required	n/a	n/a	Air Pollution Permit	\$79.60+1.33/acre	1 year	LE-7 Permit	free	~2 weeks	Air Pollution Permit	\$79.60+1.33/acre	1 year
I'm underburning 10 acres of land or more	not required	n/a	n/a	Air Pollution Permit*	\$79.60+1.33/acre	1 year	LE-7 Permit	free	~2 weeks	Air Pollution Permit*	\$79.60+1.33/acre	1 year

SEASON:	SUMMER (Suspended Burning)						FALL (Permitted Burning)					
Tentative dates:	From declaration of wildfire season though October						From October through Nov./Dec.					
Issuing Agency:	CAL FIRE			NSAQMD			CAL FIRE			NSAQMD		
Situation	Permit required	Cost	Good for...	Permit required	Cost**	Good for...	Permit required	Cost	Good for...	Permit required	Cost**	Good for...
I'm burning one pile 4'x4' x4' or smaller	Residential Burn Permit	free	Potentially	not required	n/a	n/a	Residential Burn Permit	free	1 year	not required	n/a	n/a
I'm burning multiple piles 4'x4'x4' or smaller	Residential Burn Permit	free	small	not required	n/a	n/a	Residential Burn Permit	free	1 year	not required	n/a	n/a
I'm burning one or more piles larger than 4'x4'x4'	LE-5 Permit	free	window	not required	n/a	n/a	LE-5 Permit	free	~2 weeks	not required	n/a	n/a
I'm underburning 1 acre of land or less	LE-7 Permit	free	based on	not required	n/a	n/a	LE-7 Permit	free	~2 weeks	not required	n/a	n/a
I'm underburning between 1 and 9.9 acres of land	LE-7 Permit	free	local	Air Pollution Permit	\$79.60+1.33/acre	1 year	LE-7 Permit	free	~2 weeks	Air Pollution Permit	\$79.60+1.33/acre	1 year
I'm underburning 10 acres of land or more	LE-7 Permit	free	conditions	Air Pollution Permit*	\$79.60+1.33/acre	1 year	LE-7 Permit	free	~2 weeks	Air Pollution Permit*	\$79.60+1.33/acre	1 year

*a smoke management plan is needed in addition to an Air Pollution Permit and will be entered into the PFIRS system.

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**Fees shown are for the Wildland Vegetation Management category. Consult the [NSAQMD Acreage Fees for Permits sheet](#) to determine which type of burn you qualify for.

Dates for seasons are <i>tentative</i> and change each year depending on weather and climate.
Suspension of burn permits can still allow special projects to occur if conditions are met and there is considerable advanced planning with CAL FIRE. Exceptions likely only for underburning.
CAL FIRE can declare a Burn Ban during any season in which no permits can be issued. CAL FIRE permits only apply if you live in the State Responsibility Area. Local RAs may have different policies. E permits visit burnpermit.fire.ca.gov or, contact local CAL FIRE Rep – Jonathan Pangburn @ 530-283-9322 or jonathan.pangburn@fire.ca.gov
Burning in American and Thompson Valleys can be conducted by NSAQMD permit only from Nov. 15 through Mar. 15 each year. Burning is prohibited year round in the Portola City limits, Quincy, and East Quincy. For inquiries regarding obtaining NSAQMD permits, contact local NSAQMD Rep – Julie Hunter @ 530-832-0102 ext. 513 or julieh@myairdistrict.com
Both CAL FIRE and NSAQMD can declare "no burn days" on any day due to air quality, wind, temperature, relative humidity, etc. If concerned or unclear on whether or not you can burn on a certain day, contact the agency representatives above. It never hurts to ask or inquire. Document created by Logan Krahenbuhl logan@plumasfiresafe.org . Updated 2/13/23.