

## El Dorado and Amador County Prescribed Burn Permitting Process

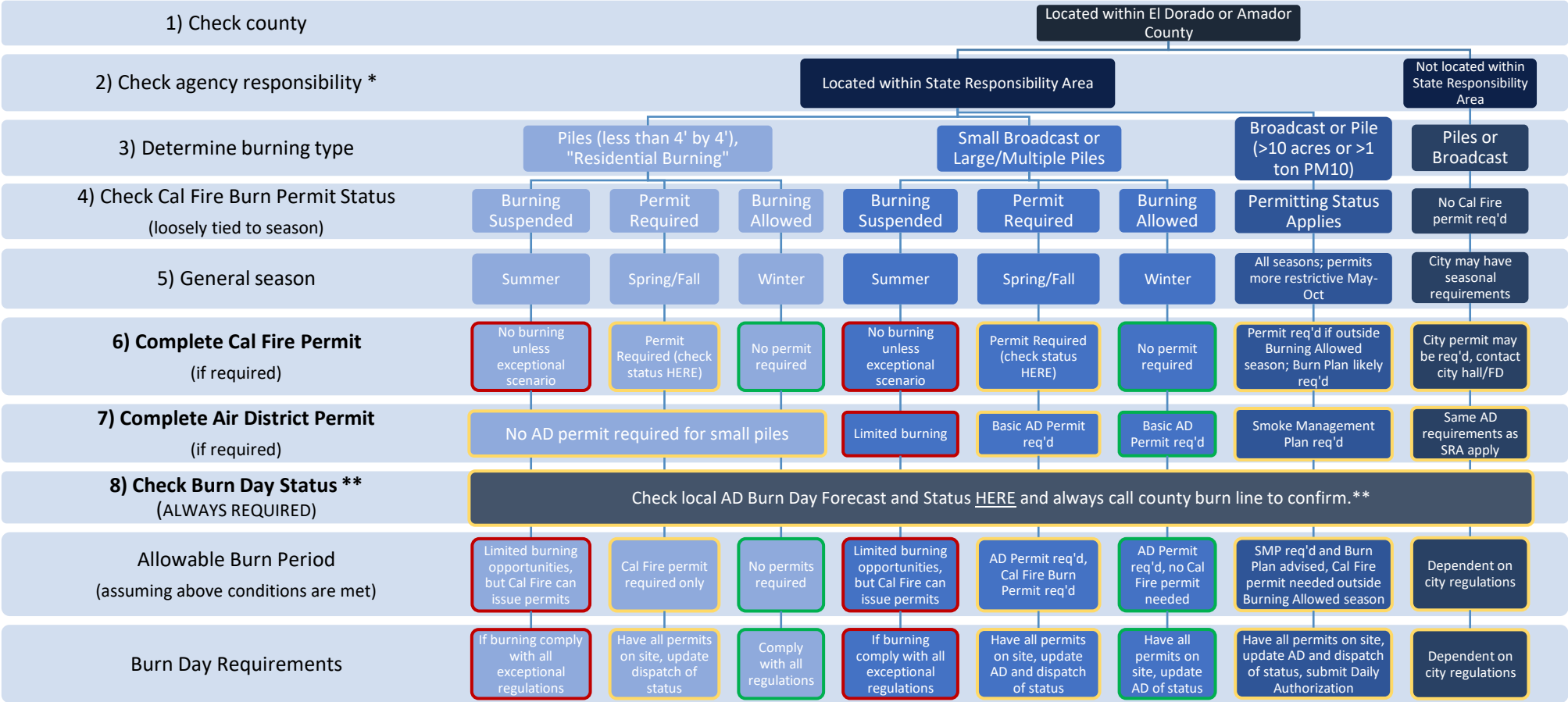
### **MUST MEET 3 CONDITIONS:**

1. Completed Cal Fire Permit (when required, see table below)
2. Completed Air District Permit (when required, see table below)
3. Appropriate Air District Burn Day status (required regardless of permits held, check daily)

### **BURN NOTES**

- Burn ONLY dry, vegetative material such as leaves, pine needles and tree trimmings may be burned. Material must come from the property on which you are burning. Burning materials from your business at a residential property is illegal.
- Burning trash, painted wood or other debris is NOT allowed.
- Regardless of any permits held or required always follow all safe burning precautions and notify neighbors and other local agencies/departments before burning.
- Only burn in appropriate fuel and weather conditions with adequate water resources and tools available.
- An adult is required to be always in attendance of the fire.
- Must have occupiable dwelling to qualify for the residential pile burn permit.

# PERMITTING WORKFLOW



AD = Air District; SRA = State Responsibility Area; SMP = Smoke Management Plan; FD = Fire Department; Broadcast burn = intentionally burning a predefined area

\* Notes on State Responsibility Area (SRA): Cal Fire permitting is only relevant if area/piles to burn are located within SRA which excludes densely populated areas, incorporated cities, agricultural lands, and federal lands. Link to SRA viewer [HERE](#) where you can enter your address to determine if Cal Fire permitting is applicable. If not located within the SRA you are likely within a Local Responsibility Area and a burn permit may be required by the city and local fire agencies so it is important to contact your local fire agency or city hall directly and follow all local regulations.

\*\* The PFIRS status does not reflect Cal Fire burn bans, no burn days due to high fire danger, or no burn days due to District regulation. ALWAYS verify by calling the burn line.

| <p align="center"><b>Burn Season Status<br/>(Identified by CAL FIRE)</b></p>  | <p align="center"><b>Burn Day Status<br/>(Identified by Air District)</b></p>  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“Burning Allowed”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No Cal Fire permit required during this time, generally the winter season.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>“Permit Required”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cal Fire permit required for any pile burning.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>“Burning Suspended”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All pile burning banned. Any active permits no longer valid. Cal Fire may grant permits in exceptional circumstances.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Cal Fire general burn information should be updated online <a href="#">HERE</a>, but it is generally best to call your local station or battalion for the most updated information.</p> <p>Exact dates of burn season status vary based on annual precipitation and weather conditions. Permits will always be required beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, but the “Burning Suspended” period and fall “Permit Required” window will vary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>(Example) December through May – Burning Allowed</i></li> <li>• <i>(Example) May 1<sup>st</sup> through late May/June – Permit Required</i></li> <li>• <i>(Example) June through late October/November – Burning Suspended</i></li> <li>• <i>(Example) October through December – Permit Required</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No Burn Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No burning allowed.</li> <li>○ Previously issued permits are not valid and no burning is allowable.</li> <li>○ Having a Cal Fire burn permit does not mean an Air District No Burn Day can be ignored.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Marginal Burn Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Limited burning allowed; will depend on conditions, necessity/objectives of burn, and specific location.</li> <li>○ Requires specific permission from air district.</li> <li>○ Having a Burn Plan prepared and showing significant preparation and/or resource availability may increase chances of being allowed to burn on a Marginal Burn Day.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Permissive Burn Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Burning allowed.</li> <li>○ Permits still required from AD and Cal Fire depending on season and size/type of burn.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Local AD Burn Day status is generally determined by 3PM the day prior and can be viewed <a href="#">HERE</a>. Burn Day status should always be additionally confirmed before beginning ignitions by calling your county AD burn line.</p> |

## Air District Permitting County Specific Information

| Amador County Air Pollution Control District  | El Dorado County Air Quality Management District  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call (209) 223-6246 to check if Permissible Burn Day (recording should be updated by 5 PM day prior).</li> <li>• General county burn info <a href="#">HERE</a> (www.amadorgov.org/services/amador-air-district/burning-and-burn-permits).</li> <li>• Access basic Burn Permit for multiple/large piles or broadcast burn <a href="#">HERE</a>.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$30 for an annual permit.</li> <li>○ \$50 for a two-year permit.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Information for larger burns and Smoke Management Plans <a href="#">HERE</a>. The AD advises that you allow at least two weeks for approval of the SMP.</li> <li>• For both small and large piles burn only one pile at a time.</li> <li>• For Amador County both a Smoke Management Plan and a Large Pile Burn Permit are required for broadcast burns over 10 acres.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To check if Permissible Burn Day call:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Western El Dorado County (530) 621-5897 or (866) 621-5897</li> <li>○ Lake Tahoe (530) 621-5842 or (888) 332-2876</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Find general county burn info and Burn Day status <a href="#">HERE</a> (https://www.edcgov.us/Government/AirQualityManagement).</li> <li>• Burn day status is also updated on their social media including Facebook <a href="#">HERE</a> and Twitter <a href="#">HERE</a>.</li> <li>• Find more information and submit online Burn Permit for piles larger than 4' x 4' or broadcast burn <a href="#">HERE</a>.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Video of this process online <a href="#">HERE</a>.</li> <li>○ No current fees.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

### Additional Notes on Air District (AD) Permitting:

- California Air Resources Board maintains the **Prescribed Fire Information Reporting Site (PFIRS)** as a resource for prescribed burning
  - Home page is a map showing any approved prescribed burns occurring. Any larger scale prescribed burns should show up on this map day of burn. Visit PFIRS [HERE](#).
  - Find AD Burn Day decisions, forecasts, and all Mountain Counties air districts contact info [HERE](#).
  - For both Amador and El Dorado County, if submitting an SMP it must be done through PFIRS, but they offer technical support if needed. The information is entered online and progress can be saved throughout. Request to make an account [HERE](#).
- Basic AD permit
  - Only valid on a Permissive Burn Day and if all Cal Fire permitting regulations are met.

- Issued for small broadcast burns (less than 10 acres or producing less than 1 ton of PM10) and piles larger than 4' by 4'.
- El Dorado AD issues a season long burn permit so will want the total that a landowner is planning to burn for that burn season.
- Amador AD refers to this permit as the Large Pile Burn Permit and issues it for broadcast burns less than 10 acres and larger pile burns. For broadcast burns they also require a brief description of how smoke will be mitigated.
- The burn season is Fall to Spring (September to June). AD burn permits and Smoke Management Plans are issued beginning in September and expire at the end of June.
- Process to obtain varies by county (links listed below). Basic information about the property is needed but the process is significantly less intensive than a Smoke Management Plan.
- Smoke Management Plan (SMP)
  - A more involved AD permit required for burns larger than 10 acres or likely to emit greater than 1 ton of PM10 particulate. For Amador County the SMP is triggered by this standard for an individual burn, for El Dorado County the SMP is triggered if this standard is met by cumulative planned burns for the burn season.
  - Having a SMP does not exempt one from AD burn day status or Cal Fire permitting requirements.
  - For Amador County both a Large Pile Burn Permit and SMP are required for larger broadcast burns.
  - For both El Dorado and Amador Counties it is required that the SMP be submitted through PFIRS site [HERE](#). The Daily Authorization can be requested and the status of the burn (ignition status, patrol status, called out) can be updated through this online portal. More information on PFIRS below.
  - For help calculating potential emissions visit CA Air Resources Board site [HERE](#).
  - Helpful calculator for potential pile emissions [HERE](#).
  - If planning multiple burns throughout the burn season which cumulatively will exceed acreage or emissions levels to trigger SMP, El Dorado AD requires that you submit one SMP for multiple individual units rather than multiple basic permits. When considering potential burns be sure you are thinking ahead if you have multiple prescribed fires planned for that burn season.
  - If you are planning to burn multiple units throughout the burn season the SMP can help to streamline the process and be easier than obtaining a basic permit for each individual burn (and in El Dorado County if your cumulative acreage or emissions across all burns would trigger the SMP then it is required). Still must submit Daily Authorization to AD for permission on day of burn.
  - More information and planning evidence is necessary for the SMP but it can increase nimbleness and ability to make the most of burn windows.