**Rule 444 Open Burning** minimizes emissions from open burning to protect public health and safety.

**This rule applies to:**

- Agricultural burning
- Emergency burning to prevent crops from freezing
- Fire department training
- Burning required to reduce fire hazard
- Tumbleweed disposal
- Other

**Agricultural Burning Requirements**

**Agricultural burning:**
- must be at least 1,000 feet away from homes, schools, daycare centers, and hospitals
- must begin one hour after sunrise and be finished two hours before sunset
- must be less than 41 acres per day
- must contain only agricultural waste (free of dirt, soil, and other debris)
- must be lit with an approved device (does not produce black smoke)

**Waste allowed to be burned**

- Citrus
- Fruit bearing trees
- Grape vines
- Date palm fronds
- Brush
- Vegetables
- Other land clearing for agricultural operations (e.g., tamarisk scrub)

*All agricultural waste must be free of trash, non-agricultural waste, dirt, soil, and visible moisture.

**Waste NOT allowed to be burned**

- Trash, plastics, tires, oil filters
- Pallets, chemically treated wood
- Material with asbestos
- Packaging material
- Pesticide and fertilizer containers
- Construction and demolition material
- Ornamental or landscape vegetation (e.g., grass, weeds, and trimmings)

**Agricultural Burn Permit Process**

1. **Burn Management Plan & Pre-Burn Inspection**
   - Submit a Burn Management Plan and request a Pre-Burn Inspection from the South Coast AQMD by calling (909) 396-3403.

2. **The Day Before a Burn**
   - Obtain a Burn Authorization Number from the South Coast AQMD by calling (909) 396-3403 before 4:00 p.m.

3. **Contact Local Fire Department**
   - After receiving a Burn Authorization Number, contact your local fire department the morning of the burn to see if burning is allowed.

4. **Burn and Report Back**
   - Follow rule requirements and use best practices to reduce emissions.
   - Submit an annual burn report including information such as material(s) burned, amount burned, and the total emissions.
Emissions from Agricultural Burning in ECV in Tons Per Year (tons/year)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>VOC** (tons/year)</th>
<th>NOx** (tons/year)</th>
<th>CO** (tons/year)</th>
<th>PM10** (tons/year)</th>
<th>PM2.5** (tons/year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Burning</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>24.87</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>2.97</td>
<td>2.82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Emissions data from 2017 was developed by South Coast AQMD staff and based on agricultural burn permits.
**VOC = volatile organic compounds; NOx = nitrogen oxides; CO = carbon monoxide; PM10 = particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter; PM2.5 = particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter.

Acres Burned in ECV by Location - Year 2017*

- Other Areas**: 642 Acres (65%)
- Thermal: 26 Acres (3%)
- Mecca: 74 Acres (7%)
- Oasis: 3 Acres (<1%)
- Coachella: 94 Acres (9%)
- Vista Santa Rosa: 150 Acres (15%)

*Data does not include burns on tribal lands, nor burns that are not permitted by the South Coast AQMD (e.g., illegal burns).
**Areas outside cities and census designated places.

Type of Materials Burned in ECV - Year 2017

- Grapevines: 518 Acres (52%)
- Brush: 268 Acres (27%)
- Citrus: 154 Acres (16%)
- Date Palm Fronds: 5 Acres (<1%)
- Tamarisk Shrub: 45 Acres (4%)

Who do I call if I see burning that is not allowed?

- County of Riverside Fire Department: 760-396-2173
- City of Coachella Fire Department: 760-398-8895
- City of Indio Fire Department: 760-347-0726
- South Coast AQMD: 1-800-CUT-SMOG or 1-800-288-7664

For additional information on South Coast AQMD’s Open Burn Program please visit: www.aqmd.gov/ab617

www.aqmd.gov/ab617  @SouthCoastAQMD