

Nevada County Residential Pile Burn Permitting Guide

Pile burning is an affordable and effective way to dispose of brush and woody vegetation around the home. Understanding local permit requirements is important to conducting safe and legal pile burns. **This factsheet provides guidance for landowners conducting residential pile burns located in State Responsibility Area (SRA) throughout Nevada County.** This factsheet does not apply to areas outside of the SRA or to other types of burning. If you are located outside an SRA or have questions about other types of burning, contact your local fire department and the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD).

Residential Pile Burn Checklist: Nevada County

Check CAL FIRE Permit Requirements

Step 1: Check CAL FIRE Burn Season Status to determine whether a permit is required: <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/current-burn-status> (search for Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit).

Step 2: Apply for CAL FIRE Residential Burn Permit (if required) at your local CAL FIRE Kiosk or online: <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>

CAL FIRE Permits are only valid for the calendar year in which they are issued and must be reapplied for annually on or after May 1st.

Check Northern Sierra AQMD Permit Requirements

Step 3: NSAMQD permits are not required for residential pile burning. For all other types of open burning, burn permits are required. Call **(530) 274-9360** for details.

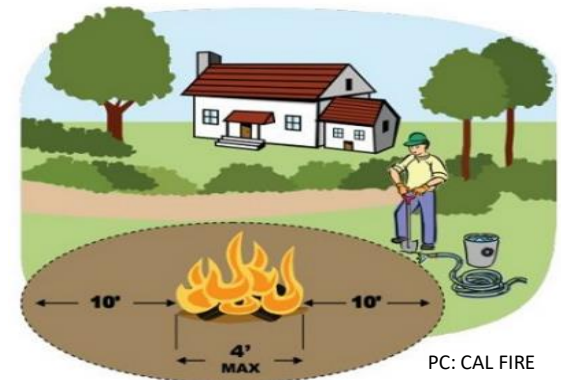
Verify that it is a Permissible Burn Day (must check daily)

Step 4: Check NSAQMD Burn Day Status: <https://myairdistrict.com/index.php/burning-info/burn-day-status/> or call **(530) 274-7928**.

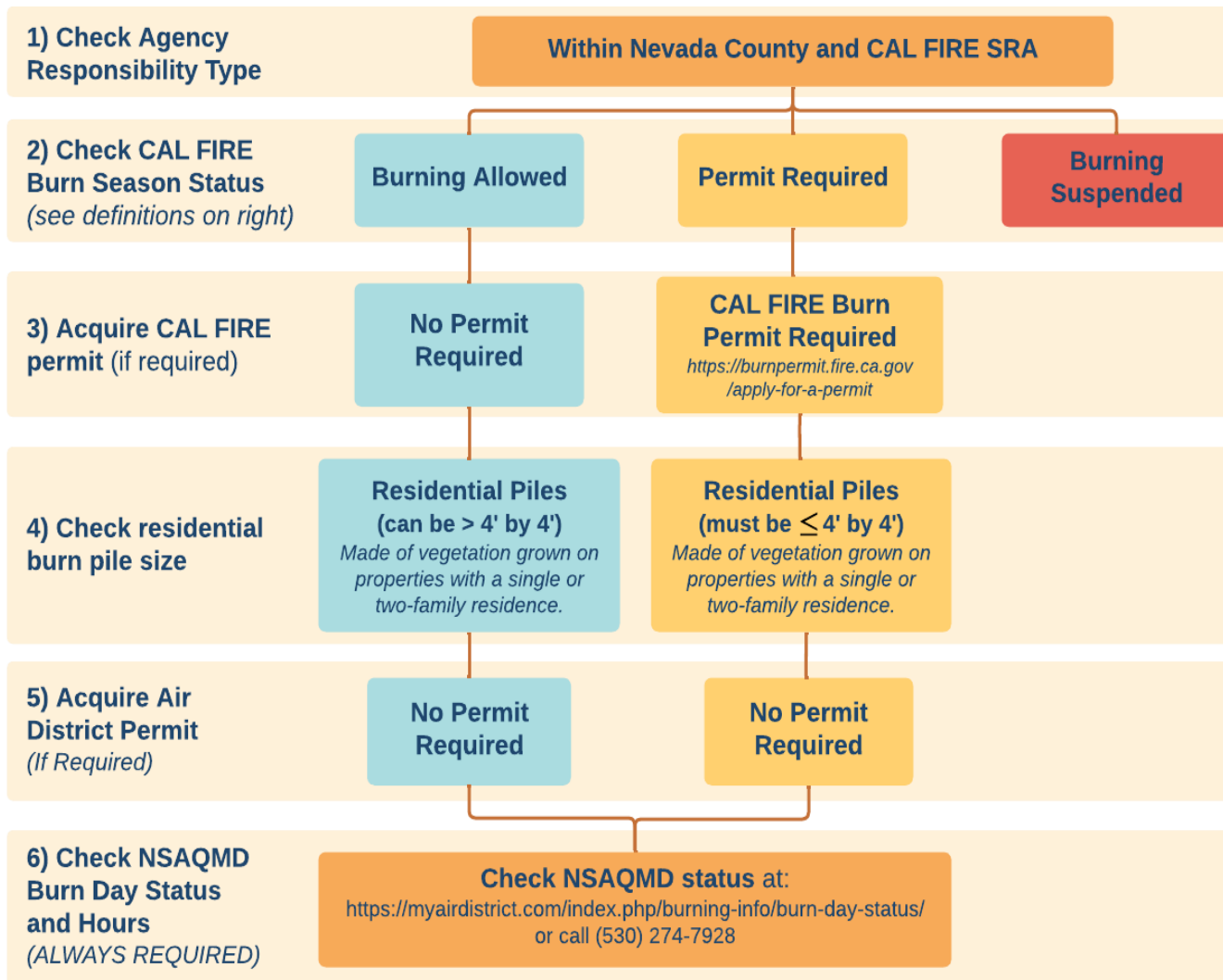
Residential burn piles must be made from a “normal accumulation of dried vegetation” from properties with a single or two-family residence. When CAL FIRE permits are required, residential burn piles must be less than 4’ by 4’ in size.

Areas with additional burn requirements:

- **Western Nevada County (west of Donner Summit):** Burn piles cannot be mainly leaves and pine needles. Burn day hours 9 AM – 3 PM.
- **Truckee/Eastern Nevada County (east of Donner Summit):** Burn day hours 9 AM – 3 PM.



Your ability to burn residential burn piles will depend on local **CAL FIRE Burn Season Status** and **Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Burn Day Status** on the day you burn. See the table on the right for definitions as identified by CAL FIRE and Northern Sierra AQMD.



CAL FIRE Burn Season Status Definitions

- Burning Allowed:** Burning allowed, no CAL FIRE permit required.
- Permit Required:** CAL FIRE permit required for pile burning.
- Burning Suspended:** All pile burning banned. Any active permits are no longer valid.

Permits are always required beginning **May 1st**, but the local CAL FIRE unit may declare “Permit Required” and “Burning Suspended” status earlier based on annual precipitation and weather conditions.

Northern Sierra AQMD Burn Day Status Definitions

- Permissive Burn Day:** Residential burning allowed, no AQMD permit required.
 - No Burn Day:** No burning allowed.
- AQMD Burn Day status must be followed regardless of CAL FIRE burn permit.**

This chart is intended to aid permitting compliance for residential pile burning within the State Responsibility Area in Nevada County.