

Placer 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 homeowners conducting residential pile burns located in State Responsibility Area (SRA) throughout Placer 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 Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD).

Residential Pile Burn Permit Checklist: Placer 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 Placer County APCD Permit Requirements

Step 3: PCAPCD permits are not required for residential pile burning. For all other types of open burning, burn permits are required. Call **(530) 745-2330** or email pcapcd-burnpermit@placer.ca.gov for details.

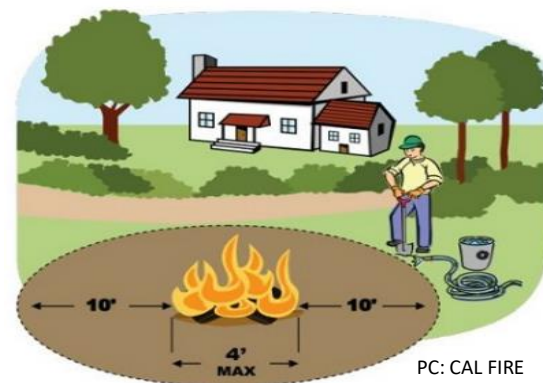
Verify that it is a Permissible Burn Day (must check daily)

Step 4: Check PCAPCD Burn Day Status: <https://www.placerair.org/burnday> or **(530) 889-6868** (Auburn) or **(800) 998-2876** (Outside of Auburn).

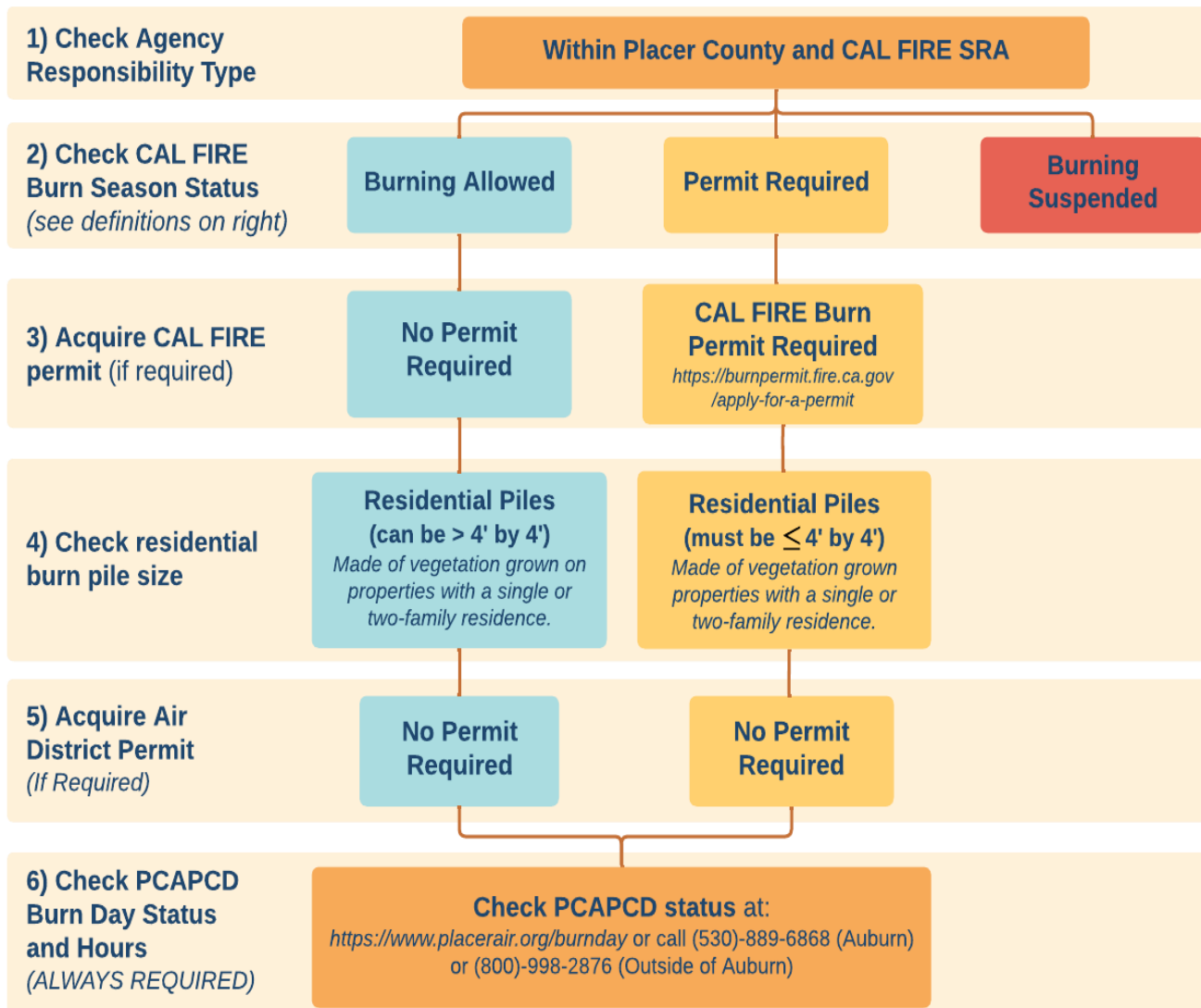
Residential burn piles must be made from a “normal accumulation of dried vegetation” from properties with a single or two-family residence. When CAL FIRE permits are required, residential burn piles must be less than 4’ by 4’ in size.

Areas with additional burn requirements:

- **North Lake Tahoe:** Burn Permits required year-round. Burn day hours from 8 AM – 6 PM.
- **Truckee, Norden, Serene Lakes, and Soda Springs:** Burn Permits required year-round. Burn day hours during daylight.



Your ability to burn residential burn piles will depend on local **CAL FIRE Burn Season Status** and **Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Burn Day Status** on the day you burn. See the table on the right for definitions as identified by CAL FIRE and Placer County APCD.



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.	
Placer County APCD Burn Day Status Definitions	
Permissive Burn Day:	Residential burning allowed, no APCD permit required.
No Burn Day:	No burning allowed.
APCD Burn Day status must be followed even when CAL FIRE burn permit is required.	

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