

BUTTE COUNTY RESIDENTS, FIND YOUR PATH TO GOOD 🔥

Find your town! **START HERE:** Are you in an incorporated town, city, or the **Chico Sphere of Influence**?**

Yes: [Biggs](#), [Paradise](#), [Oroville](#), [Chico](#), [Gridley](#), for Chico SOI see ** at bottom

No: **Ag in LRA**

🔥 OK! In the LRA of Butte County, **ag burners** don't need a CAL FIRE burn permit anymore. This is true year-round! Ag burners still **DO** need an air quality permit from BCAQMD (\$30, lasts 1 year), and may also need a smoke management plan (\$130), so call (530) 332-9406. **If you aren't an ag burner**, you still need the same CAL FIRE permits whether you're in the SRA or LRA.

Are you both an ag burner AND located in the **Local Responsibility Area** (mostly west of 99, see [viewer here](#))? **Everyone Else**

You have 2 permits to think about: Air Quality (AQ) and CAL FIRE. AQ rules stay the same year-round, so let's talk about CAL FIRE. Are we currently in a CAL FIRE burn permit suspension? (check [here](#); 2023's suspension was lifted 10/13)

As long as the burn permit suspension is in effect, well, you can't get a permit! Much less burn. But you **can and should** start writing your burn plan, mapping the areas you want to burn, and training on your equipment so you'll be ready to go as soon as that suspension is lifted! If you'd like support, contact your [Butte PBA](#), goodfire@bcrd.org!

Sweet. But are we still in **declared fire season?** (2023's fire season ended 11/13/23) ([Check](#))

Nope

🔥 OK! After the end of fire season is declared, you actually **do not need a CAL FIRE permit** until May 1! (In dry years, CAL FIRE might start requiring permits again sooner than May 1.) You still need your [AQ permit](#) and AQ (530-332-9400) final authorization before you light. (If burning on a weekend, make sure to call by 4:30 pm Friday!) And please do let CAL FIRE know that you are burning – it's just smart. We also strongly encourage you to let your neighbors know, both in-person and via social media, and you can tip off [the Watch Duty app](#), too!

Are you doing a broadcast burn? (fire moving along the ground)

NO, I'M ONLY BURNING PILES

Are all your piles small (4 ft wide by 4 ft long by 4 ft high, or less)? (Note: if your lot is less than 1 ac, your piles **MUST** be this small)


No, some of my piles are bigger

🔥 OK! If you're a resident burning your large piles yourself, you **don't** need an AQ* permit. (Just call **530-332-9407** to make sure it's a burn day and remember, no burn barrels or incinerators, and only burn stuff from your own property!) If you're burning as part of an ag or commercial timber operation OR a contractor is burning piles for you, then an AQ permit **is** needed (call **530-332-9406**). Either way, your big piles **will** need a CAL FIRE permit during permit season. Contact [your local station](#) for an LE-5*.

🔥 OK! You'll need a CAL FIRE LE-7 & LE-8 (free, lasts a short time-- Contact [your local CAL FIRE station](#)). You still need your [AQ permit](#), plus final authorization from both CAL FIRE (# is on your permit) and AQ (talk to a person at 530-332-9400 AND- if you burn on a weekend- make sure to call by 4:30 pm Friday) before you light!

One last thing. If your burn site is under 1000' in elevation, OR you are underburning more than 10 acres in a single day, you need...

....A smoke management plan! Your "SMP" costs \$130. (When you get your AQ permit, ask the AQ officer to help you create your SMP. This is probably easier than creating your own [PFIRS account](#) & making your SMP online, but that's an option too.)

EXCEPTIONS.....Per [SB 332](#),  cultural burners may be exempt from some permits. Plus, state and local policy changes ALL THE TIME. We will work hard to keep this chart updated, but if you have questions, write us. We are here to support you! Love, -Your Prescribed Burn Association goodfire@bcrd.org

Last updated: 12/1/2023

*AQ = Air Quality. In addition to the \$30 fee you'll also pay \$1 for each acre you burn. **SMP** = Smoke Management Plan. An "LE-5" is CAL FIRE's permit for piles. An **LE-7** is CAL FIRE's permit to do broadcast burns of any size, from small strips that may not even require a burn plan, to large complex burns. It is often only good for 1-2 days to weeks (but can be renewed as long as conditions are good). **LE-8**, the "minimum precautions for burning," accompanies any LE-7. ****Chico SOI:** If you're outside Chico city limits but within the SOI, you can only burn if your property is larger than 0.9 acres.



The CAL FIRE permit situation for Butte County landowners in the foothills and forests...

