

BUTTE COUNTY RESIDENTS, FIND YOUR PATH TO GOOD 🔥

Consult your town fire dept!
Yes **START HERE:** Are you inside an incorporated town or city?
No

You can't get a permit yet, 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](mailto:goodfire@bcrd.org), goodfire@bcrd.org!

Is the burn permit suspension in effect?
Yes
No

OK! You won't need any Air Quality permit – just make sure you only burn on permissive residential burn days (Call 530-332-9407 daily to find out and hear rules specific to your area). You can get your CAL FIRE permit [online](#). No need to call the station. Follow those burn permit instructions, be smoke-conscious by keeping your piles 25' from any occupied structure and only burning dry material from your own ground; use common sense & have fun!

Great, then you can apply for a permit, where needed. Are you burning piles or doing a broadcast burn (underburn)?

Just piles!
Bigger broadcast burn, >10 ac (in a day)!

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)
Yes
No: Some of my piles are bigger than that

Cool. Are you burning your large piles yourself or is a contractor doing this work for you?
I'm doing it myself
I'm paying a contractor

OK! You **don't** need an AQ* permit. (But, call **530-332-9407** before you burn to make sure it's a burn day.) But your big piles **may** need a CAL FIRE permit. Contact [your local station](#) and they can issue you an LE-5*.

Small broadcast burn, < 10 acres (in a day)

OK! You need an [AQ permit](#) (\$30, lasts 1 year). You'll also need an SMP* (\$140, lasts 1 year). (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.) You'll also need a CAL FIRE LE-7 & LE-8 (free, lasts a short time). To get it, go [online](#), upload some details and an accurate map, and schedule an inspection! Finally, you'll need both CAL FIRE (phone # is on your permit) and AQ (530-332-9406) final authorization before you light!

OK! Your contractor **does** need an Air Quality permit as well as a CAL FIRE permit. The contractor should know this & handle it for you.

Is your burn site below 1000' in elevation?
Yes
No

OK! You need an [AQ permit](#) (\$30, good for a year) but you don't need a Smoke Management Plan/SMP. You likely qualify for the simpler CAL FIRE permit (LE-5). To get it, go [online](#), upload some details and an accurate map, and schedule an inspection! You still need both AQ (530-332-9406) and CAL FIRE (# on your permit) final authorization before you light!

OK! You need an [AQ permit](#) (\$30, lasts 1 year) but you don't need an SMP. You also need a CAL FIRE LE-7 & LE-8 (free, go [online](#) to upload some details & a good map, and schedule an inspection). Finally, you'll need both CAL FIRE (# is on your permit) and AQ (530-332-9406) final authorization before you light!

Is your burn pretty small (like an acre, ish?) and flat?
Yes
No,

my burn will be bigger or more complex than that....

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: 2/15/2023

*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 smallish, simple burns and most piles. It may require less resources on hand when you burn. An LE-7 is CAL FIRE's permit to burn larger areas. In the past, we've seen these be valid for as little as 1-2 days from issuance or as long as "until May 1, weather permitting". (But remember, even if a permit expires, it can be renewed as long as conditions are good). LE-8, the "minimum precautions for burning," accompanies any LE-7.

