

Back Yard Burning Changes, Effective Dec. 1, 2012

Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (MBUAPCD) has been monitoring the fine particulate matter in the air and has received countless phone calls complaining about back yard smoke in the San Lorenzo Valley. MBUAPCD Rule 438 was revised in the summer months of 2012. Here are highlights of the revised rule that effect Felton residents and the San Lorenzo Valley.

- Smoke Sensitive Area. The San Lorenzo Valley has been declared a Smoke Sensitive Area. Being a Smoke Sensitive Area allows for modification of the general rule.
- Back yard burning may be conducted on residential property of 1 acre or more. Residential property less than 1 acre may not conduct back yard burning. Yard burning is not allowed on business properties, apartment houses or multiple unit housing. Residential property with 1 or 2 living units only.
- No yard burns may be conducted within 100 feet of a neighbor's structure (neighbor's residence, garage, shed, etc).
- A permit is required. This permit is available on the MBUAPCD web page (www.mbuapcd.org) or by calling their office at **(831)647-9411**.
- Only four yard burns are allowed per day in each of the four fire districts in the San Lorenzo Valley. The evening before or on the day a person wants to have a back yard burn, the person must contact MBUAPCD and be recognized as one of the four yard burns for the day in Felton.
- Continue to call the California Air Resources Board to obtain the "burn status" for the day. That number is **1-800-CAL-BURN**. You can call this number after 4:00 pm and obtain the recorded message for the next day. If it is a "permissive burn day", you must meet the requirements in items 2 – 5 above, before conducting your yard burn. Property owners meeting these requirements may only burn on permissive burn days. Yard burns are not allowed on "negative burn days".
- If you have a complaint about the smoke being produced by a back yard burn, please direct your complaint to MBUAPCD by calling **(831) 647-9411**. **IF** there is a fire safety concern about a yard burn, please dial 9-1-1.