

From: Steve Dunicliff
To: Karla Van Hagen; Carre Brown
Date: 5/13/2019 5:13 PM
Subject: Fwd: Mendocino County Air Quality Management District Burn Permits
Attachments: MEU 2019 Burn Permit Admin Plan.doc

>>> "Pinson, Brett@CALFIRE" <Brett.Pinson@fire.ca.gov> 5/13/2019 4:52 PM >>>
Steve,

Here is the information we sent out to the public, local Fire Chiefs and our allied agencies, including the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District(MCAQMD). This was information was sent before MCAQMD sent out their letter. If you review our document, you will see we include MCAQMD in our information. It is our standard practice for the Fire Prevention Bureau Chief to contact MCAQMD before our information is released and provide them an opportunity provide clarity to the document to ensure both agencies are on the same page and are providing consistent information to the public. This year unfortunately they did not return our requests for input which delayed our press release. I also was disappointed that MCAQMD did not contact CAL FIRE or the Local Fire Chiefs before releasing their new rules. This has caused confusion not only to the Fire Agencies in the county but the public at large. Some local Fire Departments have stopped issuing permits altogether.

As I read the new MCAQMD rules, land owners in some areas would need three permits to burn their vegetation. I believe this is unacceptable, the public should be able to acquire a valid permit and burn the same day. I don't believe MCAQMD shares my opinion. MCAQMD is only open on week days during normal business hours and their online burn permit process does not issue a valid permit. CAL FIRE has gone to great lengths to improve the access to the public to obtain a valid permit by issuing permits at our stations 7 days a week and a statewide online permit process. Under the new rules CAL FIRE would not be able to issue a valid permit of any type or size. In the past CAL FIRE, could issue a valid permit to burn vegetation to the limit set by MCAQMD that requires a smoke management plan (10 acres, or less than 50 tons of fuel, or less than 10,000 cubic feet of fuel). I believe if we want to make a difference in reducing the amount of dangerous vegetation in the county all agencies must work together to streamline the burn permit process not only for the Fire agencies but for the public too. I was happy to hear the new rules have been postponed until the fall. I still have not heard from MCAQMD regarding the postponement of the new rules and as of last Wednesday either has the local Fire Chiefs.

I hope this clarifies CAL FIRE's position. I had planned to attend tomorrows board meeting, but unfortunately I will be in Humboldt County. As I mentioned before we have always had a good relationship MCAQMD and look forward to working with them in the future.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to provide input,

K, Brett Pinson

Unit Chief



Mendocino Unit

(707) 459-7401

(707) 391-6701