

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN
July 2010

Requirements for Burning Paper Raisin Trays

On May 20, 2010, the District's Governing Board postponed the prohibition of burning paper raisin trays in accordance with the requirements District Rule 4103 (Open Burning) and California Health and Safety Code Sections 41855.5 and 41855.6. Therefore, the burning of paper raisin trays will continue to be allowed with a valid District issued agricultural burn permit and District authorization until such time that economically and technically feasible alternatives to open burning exist.

As a condition of the postponement, the following requirements were put in place by the Board in order to minimize smoke impacts and will affect all District agricultural burn permit holders authorized to burn paper raisin trays. **Please be advised that the failure to comply with the below requirements will result in the issuance of a Notice of Violation and the imposition of a monetary penalty.**

- All active raisin tray burn locations must be attended by able bodied adults with adequate tools or equipment to control a fire from escaping at all times.
- All burn locations must have adequate clearance to avoid escape. The burn area should be a "fire safety zone" away from dry fields, homes, shops, garages, utility poles or utility supply lines, and other buildings or equipment (a good fire prevention practice is to remove all combustible materials from around the burn area to a minimum of 30 feet).
- Paper raisin trays must be burned in a "fire safe zone" and in a contained manner to prevent the escape of burning embers or ash. Methods may include the use of a wire cage, a wire mesh which lays on top of the paper while it is being burned, or similar type devices. The device may be constructed out of hardware cloth or chicken wire provided that the mesh is no larger than a ½ inch opening. If a cage is to be used, the cage should never be filled beyond half full. It is your responsibility to determine if your local fire prevention agency has requirements as to what type of device may be utilized within their jurisdiction. Please be aware that using a burn barrel is strictly prohibited.
- Don't burn on high wind days.
- Avoid burning near a highway or roadway. Ashes or heavy smoke can create a very dangerous situation for drivers and winds caused by vehicles could cause the fire to escape from the fire safety zone.
- Don't cause a smoke nuisance to your neighbors.

The shredding of raisin trays has been demonstrated to be a viable alternative to burning by many growers throughout the valley. If you choose this alternative to burning, you should adequately incorporate the shredded material into the soil to prevent the potentially combustible shredded paper tray material from accumulating in vineyard rows or along roadways.

Agricultural burn permit holders are encouraged to use the automated Smoke Management System when seeking a daily burn authorization. This system may be reached by telephone at 1-800-665-2876 or via the Internet at <http://sms.valleyair.org>. For an answer to your questions on open burning and/or agricultural burn permits, please call 1-800-665-2876 between 6:00 AM and 11:00 AM.