

PRESS RELEASE

MONO COUNTY

Backyard Burning of Garbage Illegal Starting New Year's Day

The Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District is advising that, due to new state air quality regulations, residents will no longer be allowed to burn household garbage. Burning garbage releases large amounts of dangerous chemicals into the air that remain in the environment long after the fire is extinguished.

The California Air Resources Board has adopted a statewide regulation to reduce emissions of dioxins and other toxics from outdoor residential waste burning. Beginning January 1, 2004, no household trash can be burned anywhere in the state.

Dry, natural vegetation, grown on the property, can still be burned in open piles on the ground if you have a valid burn permit from your local fire protection agency and it is a permissive burn day.

Paper or cardboard may be burned in open piles on the ground, with a valid burn permit, in Mono County (except the Town of Mammoth Lakes) and in Inyo County (except the City of Bishop and the towns of Independence (Zip Code 93526) and Lone Pine (Zip Code 93545)).

The state has designated some areas where burn barrels could be used to burn dry vegetation, paper and cardboard. Mono County residents of zip codes 93512, 93517 and 93541 may use burn barrels. Inyo County residents of zip codes 92328, 92384, 92389, 93522, 93527 and 93549 may use burn barrels. Residents in the White Mountain and Chalfant Valley Fire Districts, within zip code 93514, may use burn barrels. The use of burn barrels anywhere else in Inyo or Mono Counties is prohibited.

Burn permits must be obtained from your local fire agency, and burning can occur only on permissive burn days. For more information visit the Air Resources Board's website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/smp/resburn/resburn.htm>, contact Jonathan Becknell or Duane Ono at the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District (760-872-8211) or call your local fire agency for a burn permit.