

LIVE FIRE USE APPROVAL/NOTIFICATION

8181

(No.51 June 2015)

[\(See HB 8100p810 – Live Fire Use – Approval/Notification\)](#)

[\(See HB 8100p811 – Live Fire Use - Hazard Reduction Pile Burning\)](#)

The use of live fire is an essential tool for training, hazard reduction, and vegetation management. Activities using live fire need to be conducted with proper planning, adequate supervision and with notice to appropriate levels of the organization.

BROADCAST BURNING

8181.1

(No.51 June 2015)

A broadcast burn is a prescribed fire allowed to burn over a designated area within well-defined boundaries to achieve land management objectives.

Live fire use may impact operational and management decisions due to potential fire behavior, availability of resources, commitments to training, instructional or media value, the visibility of smoke, and interest generated by unusual activity. Communications between the Units and Region regarding burn projects is vital.

Each Unit will have a planning, review, and approval process. For Unit approved projects, the Unit will decide if conditions are appropriate to proceed then notify the Region Duty Officer.

- An Incident Action Plan (IAP) will be prepared for each project.
- For projects requiring Region approval or notification, the Live Fire Use – Approval/Notification Form (FC-400) will be used as well as a vicinity map attached for reference.
- Notification: - A project requiring Unit Duty Chief approval only. The Unit informs Region by forwarding the FC-400
- Request Approval: – A project requiring both Unit Duty Chief and Region Duty Chief approval. The Unit has reviewed the project and forwarded to Region for approval through the FC-400.

The FC-400 shall be submitted at least 48 hours prior to the proposed date of the burn to request Region approval and documentation of the decision. When requesting a burn authorization with less than 48 hours notice, the Unit Duty Chief will contact the Region Duty Chief for authorization.

To track broadcast burning for vegetation management, hazard reduction, and training in State Responsibility Areas (SRA), the Live Fire and Aircraft Use Calendars will be used. The Region Duty Officer will maintain the Live Fire and Aircraft Use Calendar.

Description of specific activities and approval/notification requirements:

Academy Training – Ione:

- Notification: . Academy will advise the Sacramento CC and the Amador-El Dorado Unit Duty Chief of live fire use activities with the emphasis on broadcast burning. Sacramento CC will notify Sacramento and Region Duty Chiefs.

Academy Training Off Site – Region or Unit Level:

- Request Approval: The host Unit Duty Chief will request approval from Region for training involving broadcast burning. The Region Duty Chief will provide the decision.

Unit Training (including Region sponsored classes):

- Notification: Within Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) and for Structure Burns in LRA or SRA, the Unit Duty Chief will approve or deny projects involving live fire use and notify the Region Duty Chief
- Request Approval: For broadcast burning within SRA or FRA the Unit will request approval from Region.

Unit Hazard Reduction – Excluding Pile Burning:

- Notification: Within LRA and SRA, the Unit Duty Chief will approve or deny projects involving live fire use and notify the Region Duty Chief.

Fuel Reduction Projects:

- Notification: Broadcast burning within LRA and LE-7; Project Type Burning Permits, the Unit Chief or designee will approve or deny projects involving live fire use and notify the Region Duty Chief.
- Request Approval: Broadcast burning under VMP agreement(s) in cooperation with private landowners, other state and federal agencies requires the Unit to request approval from Region.

HAZARD REDUCTION PILE BURNING

8181.2

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Hazard reduction pile burning (pile burning) is any vegetation pile burning conducted by CAL FIRE. (For example pile burning at stations, grade projects for stakeholders and sponsors, pile burning conducted under the VMP program, etc.)

Prior to burning, the Hazard Reduction Pile Burning Checklist shall be completed. The Checklist will be completed daily, signed by Unit field personnel responsible for the pile burning and retained at the Unit level for a minimum of 30 days.

Pile burning requires the use of appropriate planning, supervision and notification; fuel conditions and weather shall be considered. Ensure appropriate permits and fire suppression resources are available. The Unit ECC shall be notified prior to burning each day.

Pile burning does not require the use of the FC-400.

The requirements of 8100p811 do not apply to hazard reduction pile burning when conducted under the direct control of a non-CAL FIRE agency (state, local, or federal) burn boss, or equivalent, as recognized by the host agency.

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