

BUTTE COUNTY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**RULE 304 - RICE STRAW BURNING**

*(Adopted July 15, 1980; Recodified August 6, 1985; Recodified August 20, 1998; Recodified August 22, 2002)*

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**RULE 304**

The following shall apply to all rice straw and stubble burning:

- 1 **MECHANICAL RICE STRAW SPREADER:** All rice harvesters shall employ a mechanical straw spreader to insure even distribution of the straw, with the exception that rice straw may be left in rows providing that it meets the drying time criteria prior to a burn as described in Section 2 below.
- 2 **POST HARVEST DRYING TIME:** The drying time after harvest shall not be less than three (3) days and no row rice straw shall be burned prior to a ten (10) day drying time, except that if the rice straw or stubble makes an audible crackle when tested just prior to burning with the testing method described in Section 3 below. After a rain exceeding 15/100 of an inch, rice straw or stubble shall not be burned unless the straw makes an audible crackle when tested just prior to burning with the testing method described in Section 3 below.
- 3 **CRACKLE TESTS:** When checking the field for moisture, the grower shall test a composite sample of straw from under the mat, in the center of the mat and from the different areas of the field to insure a representative sample. A handful of straw from each area will give a good indication.