

VALLEY AIR NEWS

Don't trash our air

For many years, burning trash in a barrel in the backyard was a common practice. What better way to destroy financial information or classified documents? However, garbage often contains plastics, metals and synthetic materials that create dangerous emissions when burned.

The San Joaquin Valley already fails to meet clean-air standards for particulate matter and ozone pollution. Both of these pollutants are a by-product that is either created directly or indirectly by burning such materials.

In 1992, the Air District adopted rule 4103, Open burning, which makes burning the following items illegal within Air District boundaries:

- Household garbage
- Shrubbery, lawn clippings, rose prunings and weeds
- Vegetable garden residue and orchard prunings
- Lumber, plywood, particle board and other wood products
- Painted or stained wood
- Christmas trees
- Demolition debris or construction and roofing materials
- Furniture and mattresses
- Tires and other plastic or rubber products
- Paints, solvents and their containers
- Petroleum products such as waste oil, gas and diesel
- Electric wire or metal for salvage
- Animal carcasses, manure, hay and bedding
- Vegetation transported from one property to another
- Anything processed, manufactured or treated

Dispose of Waste Properly

To avoid penalties, citations and fines, the Air District encourages you to properly dispose of these materials through a waste collection service or at an approved waste disposal facility. Hazardous wastes, including solvents oil and paints, must be taken to a local hazardous waste collection site.

Many materials may be reused or recycled. Unwanted clothing, furniture, toys and books can be donated to a charity, friends, schools or other organizations. Take recyclable items to a recycling center or waste collection site.

To view Rule 4103 in its entirety, go to:
<http://www.valleyair.org/rules/currnrules/r4103.pdf>.



Last call for kids calendar entries

The deadline to submit artwork for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's 2009 Healthy Air Living Kids Calendar is Oct. 13.

Valley school students in kindergarten through 12th grade who live within the Air District's boundaries are encouraged to enter the contest by sending in their own original, full-color artwork containing a message about how to live a healthy air life. Artists should place the page sideways, in landscape orientation, so the paper is 8½ inches high and 11 inches wide.

Healthy Air Living, a new, comprehensive initiative, aims to improve the health and quality of life of all Valley residents by making air quality a priority consideration in all business and personal decisions.

Fourteen drawings will be selected for the calendar. Artists must include their name, address, phone number, age, grade and school on the back of the artwork and mail it flat, not folded, to 2009 Kids Calendar, Valley Air District, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726.



For more information, call the nearest office: Northern Region (209) 557-6400, Central Region, (559) 230-6000 or Southern Region, (661) 326-6900. Organizations can request calendars by calling one of these offices or by sending an e-mail to brenda.turner@valleyair.org.

Toyota Prius winner announced

The highlight of the Healthy Air Living Initiative this summer was the "Win a Toyota Prius Contest." On August 21, the winner was randomly chosen and announced during the Air District's Governing Board meeting.

Congratulations to Gerry Koenig of Tulare, who will take home a brand new, air-friendly hybrid vehicle.

Mr. Koenig is expected to pick up his Prius later this month.

