

# VALLEY AIR NEWS

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District  
March 2009

## Sixth wood-burning season ends with cleaner Valley skies

The sixth Check Before You Burn season ended Feb. 28 with more wood-burning restrictions that resulted in cleaner air Valley-wide.

The annual program runs from November through February each year. The wood-burning rule (4901) prohibits the use of residential wood burning when air quality is deteriorating.

This season, the rule was tightened in order to be even more protective of public health. Preliminary air-quality measurements illustrate that an increased number of wood burning prohibitions resulted in fewer days of "unhealthy" air quality than during the three previous wood-burning seasons.

"By calling for wood-burning curtailments at lower levels, we were able to prevent some of the worst air pollution this winter," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's air pollution control officer.

Particulate matter (PM) is the most dangerous form of pollution the Valley faces. It has been linked to increased incidence of chronic lung disease, acute respiratory impairment, heart attacks and premature death. Residential wood burning can emit as much as 17 tons per day of harmful PM into the eight-county air basin and is the largest source of particulate pollution during winter months.

Wood-burning curtailments apply to indoor and outdoor fireplaces, wood stoves and inserts, pellet stoves and inserts, chimineas or any device that burns a solid fuel for the purpose of heating or ambiance. Violators are subject to fines.

However, a residence may be exempt from a curtailment if:

- Wood burning is the sole source of heat for the residence; or
- The residence does not have natural-gas heating (includes where propane is used).

The use of natural-gas fireplaces and other heating devices are always allowed.

Wood-burning curtailments and notices of violations (NOVs) by county for 2008-2009:

County	Curtailments	NOVs
San Joaquin	24	27
Stanislaus	34	68
Merced	32	22
Madera	34	45
Fresno	46	126
Kings	37	10
Tulare	35	26
Kern (Valley air basin portion)	54	85



## Mark your calendar!

### Notable springtime events in the San Joaquin Valley

- March 25 - Go Green, Willow International Center/Madera Community College
- March 28 - Tune In/Tune Up with Valley Clean Air Now, Bakersfield College
- March 28 - Keep Bakersfield Beautiful Great American Cleanup, River Walk Park
- April 4 - American Lung Association's Healthy Air Walk, Yokuts Park, Bakersfield
- April 9 - Earth Day Celebration, Modesto Junior College East Campus
- April 11, Beyond Earth Day, Riverbank Galaxy Theater
- April 11 - American Lung Association's Healthy Air Walk, Weber Point, Stockton
- April 18 - Green Hope Veteran's Earth Day Celebration, Roeding Park, Palm Point Shelter, Fresno
- April 18 - Modesto's 20th Annual Earth Day Celebration, Graceada Park
- April 18 - Earth Day Celebration, Bakersfield College
- April 18 - 2009 Fresno Solar Tour, Claude Laval WET Incubator, Fresno
- April 19 - Stockton's Earth Day Celebration, Victory Park
- April 22 - Clean Green Yard Machines Program begins
- April 22 - Earth Day Celebration, Golden Valley Health Center, Childs Ave., Merced
- April 25 - Earth Day at Cal State, Bakersfield
- April 25 - Earth Day Celebration, Cecil Park in Delano
- April 30 - 2nd Annual Asthma Fair, Memorial Medical Center, Modesto
- May - Clean Air Month, Asthma Awareness Month and Bike-to-Work Month
- May 11-15 is Bike-To-Work Week
- May 5 - World Asthma Day
- May 13 - Cross City Coffee Ride, Clovis to Downtown Fresno
- May 14 - Bike to Work Corporate Challenge, Fresno
- May 14 - Bike to Work Day, City of Modesto, 10th Street Place
- May 20 - REXPO V, Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce Recycling and Clean Air Business Exposition - Stockton Grand Hotel

## Calling all amateur video producers!

The Valley Air District would like to see your best shot at creating a :30 second video about Healthy Air Living.



You could win an iPod Shuffle and a \$250 resource grant for your teacher.

For more information about the **For Reel** Video Contest visit [www.healthyairliving.com](http://www.healthyairliving.com).