

VALLEY AIR NEWS

December 2022



Protect your health by understanding the District's daily burn status

As the nights get colder in the Valley, some residents turn to fireplaces to keep their homes warm. The District encourages Valley residents to avoid wood burning altogether. Wood smoke contains particulate matter, which enters your house and neighborhood and can negatively impact your health.

Before using any kind of residential wood burning device November 1 through the end of February, please visit valleyair.org/burnstatus to determine if it is legal to burn that day.

Please note: burning trash is always illegal.

Here are the three daily burn status options and what they mean:

No Burning for All: Residents cannot use their wood-burning devices from midnight to midnight. Violations can result in fines.

No Burning Unless Registered: Only residents with devices registered with the District can use their units. To be registered, these devices must meet EPA requirements or are pellet-fueled, wood-burning heaters exempt from EPA-certification requirements.

Burning Discouraged: If residents must use their wood-burning devices, clean and dry firewood is encouraged. Unseasoned wood smolders and creates additional emissions.

The daily declarations are issued each afternoon for the next day and are based on what the particulate matter (PM) forecast will be for each county. For "Hot Spot" counties (Fresno, Madera and Kern) with bigger air quality challenges, the PM thresholds are more stringent and set at lower thresholds compared to other counties.

To learn more, visit the program website, call 800-SMOG-INFO (800-766-4463) or check the Valley Air app.

Kids' Calendar winners honored at December meeting

The District's Governing Board recognized 14 Valley students for their outstanding artwork in the 2023 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar during today's board meeting. This year's cover artist and grand-prize winner is Sienna Valdivia, a fourth grader at Redwood Elementary School in Shafter.

The District's annual calendar, designed to educate and inspire the public to live a Healthy Air Life and reduce air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley, is a full-color, bilingual wall calendar, featuring clean-air messages and drawings of students from throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

Congratulations to the following talented students featured in this year's calendar:

- Sienna Valdivia, 4th grade, Shafter – Cover art
- Evelyn, 6th grade, Bakersfield
- Arella Siret Vidrio Calderon, 11th grade, Stockton
- Sebastian Jones, 1st grade, Tulare
- Erika Matties, 8th grade, Modesto
- Miguel Cabrera, 6th grade, Madera
- Felix F. Hernandez, 8th grade, Arvin
- Tabitha Hitchman, 9th grade, Hanford
- Millie Murguia, 3rd grade, Delano
- Milli Johal, 3rd grade, Atwater
- Aranza Garcia Soto, 2nd grade, Fresno
- Genesis Esparza, 8th grade, Arvin
- Elyies Dukes, 11th grade, Stockton
- Caitlyn Lee, 6th grade, Fresno

To request a free calendar, email public.education@valleyair.org or call (559) 230-6000.

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San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
www.valleyair.org