

# News Release

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For Immediate Release

**TO:**

**Local News Sections**



San Joaquin Valley  
Air Pollution  
Control District

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## **Air District urges responsible fireplace use during holidays**

(Fresno, CA) – As the holidays approach, the Valley Air District reminds residents to check their county’s air-quality status before lighting a wood-burning fireplace, insert or pellet stove. When wood burning is allowed, residents are urged to burn as cleanly as possible.

Air District data shows that harmful emissions from residential wood burning generally increase around Thanksgiving, Christmas and the Super Bowl.

“Traditionally, those are the times we see high concentrations of particulate matter from fireplaces,” said Dave Jones, Air District planning director. “So we ask people to be extra vigilant during the holidays, to comply with any prohibitions, and if they must burn at all, to burn as cleanly as possible.”

Residents should check the wood-burning status in their county before they light a fire. If air quality is expected to be unhealthy for the general public, wood burning is prohibited. If air quality is expected to be unhealthy for sensitive groups, residents are asked to voluntarily refrain from burning wood, or to burn as cleanly as possible.

Cleaner alternatives include pellet-fueled heaters, manufactured firelogs in open fireplaces, and EPA Phase II-certified devices.

Residents also should be aware that even when residential wood burning is allowed, it is illegal to burn garbage or treated wood either in a fireplace or outdoors.

The wood-burning status is available in English and Spanish toll-free at 1-800-Smog-Info (766-4463) and at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org). Updates in Hmong are available toll-free at 1-877-344-1212. The restrictions do not apply to natural gas or propane devices; homes in which wood burning is the sole source of heat, homes located at elevations higher than 3,000 feet; and homes where natural gas service is not available.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern. For assistance, contact the nearest District office in Modesto at (209) 557-6440, Fresno (559) 230-6000 or Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.

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