CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN

Wood burning is a serious health matter. During winter, smoke from residential wood burning – whether it’s in a fireplace, wood stove, pellet stove, wood-burning insert or outdoor chimineas and fire pits – puts dangerous emissions into the air.

Each winter, from November 1 through the end of February, the District issues a daily residential wood-burning status.

There are three levels:

- **No one can burn at their residence.**
- **In order to legally burn on days that this status is declared, you MUST register your device. Look inside this brochure for details.**
- **If you must burn at your residence, use dry/seasoned wood (such as Hotwood), pellets or a clean-burning device.**

Check Before You Burn applies to any indoor or outdoor device which burns solid fuel, such as wood, wood pellets or manufactured wood logs. This includes open hearth fireplaces, stoves and inserts, pellet stoves, and outdoor chimineas and fire pits.

You can find the wood-burning status several ways:
- Call 1-800-SMOG INFO (766-4483)
- Visit www.valleyair.org/CBYB
- Through your local newscast or in your local newspaper.
- Through the free smartphone app, search “Valley Air”

It is YOUR responsibility to find out if you can burn on any given day. If you burn when it is prohibited, you will face fines and penalties.

**Burn Cleaner**

Purchase a cleaner burning device through the District’s Burn Cleaner Fireplace and Woodstove Change-out program. This program will give you money toward a new cleaner burning EPA certified insert or stove. Find out how much you qualify for at www.valleyair.org/BurnCleaner.

If your new Burn Cleaner device is wood or pellet burning you have 12 months to use our simple online registration. After 12 months you will have to have an RWBHP inspection in order to get registered. See registration details inside this brochure.
Registering Your Wood Burning Device

In order to use your clean EPA Phase II wood or pellet burning device on days when the wood-burning status is “No Burning Unless Registered” you must register your device.

» If the device was installed more than 12 months ago, it will need to be inspected and registered by a Registered Wood Burning Heater Professional (RWBHP). To get the list of RWBHPs, visit www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration and answer a few questions to determine your registration option.

» If the device was installed less than 12 months ago, make sure you indicate that when you register at www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration. This will allow you to register without hiring an RWBHP.

PLEASE NOTE: Residences with no access to piped-in natural gas (even if you use propane) are exempt from the Check Before You Burn rule and do not need to register.

Registration is voluntary. If you choose to significantly restrict the use of your device and only burn when the District declares “No Restrictions,” then registration is not necessary.

How do I Know if I Should Register my Device?

Additional Things to Know

For full registration of your device it must be:

» Located in the San Joaquin Valley air basin
» An EPA Phase II Certified wood burning device or EPA exempt pellet stove
» Inspected by an independent, District-registered Wood Burning Heater Professional (RWBHP) every three years

Each registration carries a nominal fee from the District in addition to any charges you pay to the RWBHP for inspection services.

The RWBHP will inspect and verify that your device:

» Qualifies to be registered
» Is in good working condition
» Is clean and maintained according to manufacturer recommendations

Before having your device inspected, please note these important details:

» RWBHPs are independent contractors and not employees of the Valley Air District
» Shop around and compare prices
» Work quality may vary so check references
» Follow manufacturer maintenance recommendations
» Review device installation warranty if applicable