

News Release

For immediate release

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For: local news and assignment editors



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Wood-burning prohibition issued for seven counties

Deteriorating air quality mandates no-burn day on Thanksgiving

A residential wood-burning prohibition has been issued for the following counties on Thursday, Nov. 26, because of deteriorating air quality:

- * San Joaquin;
- * Stanislaus;
- *Madera;
- *Fresno;
- *Kings;
- *Tulare; and
- *the Valley portion of Kern.

The mandatory curtailment will be in effect from midnight Wednesday through at least midnight Thursday

The curtailment applies to burning wood, pellets and manufactured fire logs. The Check Before You Burn season, which runs from Nov. 1 through the end of February, reduces fall and wintertime air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley through mandatory curtailments that are issued county by county when air quality is expected to deteriorate.

Fines for first-time violations start at \$50.

There are exemptions to the mandatory curtailment:

- * If wood burning is the residence's sole source of heat, or
- * If the residence does not have access to natural-gas service (even if propane is used).

Also, gas fireplaces may be used at any time.

-more-

Thanksgiving curtailments in seven counties

11-25-09

Page 2 of 2

The daily wood-burning status by county is available by 4 p.m. each day at www.valleyair.org, and in English and Spanish at 1-800 SMOG INFO (1-800-766-4463). Updates in Hmong are available at 1-877-344-1212.

When wood burning is allowed, it should be done as cleanly as possible by using dry, seasoned wood or manufactured fire logs. And remember: Burning trash is NEVER allowed.