

News Release

For immediate release
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San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



Attn: Local news, weather and assignment editors

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Officials issue first fireplace prohibition of season for Tulare County *Curtailments also in Fresno, Kings, Valley portion of Kern counties*

Check Before You Burn wood-burning curtailments are in effect **Wed., Nov. 13** in **Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley portion of Kern counties**. It is the first curtailment of the season in Tulare County.

The daylong mandatory curtailment because of poor air quality is in place through midnight Wednesday. The curtailment applies to burning wood, pellets and manufactured fire logs in residential fireplaces, stoves and outdoor burning devices such as fire pits and chimeneas.

Check Before You Burn runs each winter from November through February and reduces wintertime particulate pollution (PM) by restricting the use of wood-burning devices when air quality is poor. This curtailment is in place because of elevated levels of coarse particulate matter (PM10).

Wood-burning forecasts are issued each day by county.

Residential wood burning is the single largest source of harmful PM during winter and can pump 17 tons of PM into Valley skies daily. PM exacerbates respiratory illness, such as asthma, and causes lung infections and bronchitis.

There are two exceptions to wood-burning prohibitions:

- If the residence does not have access to natural-gas service, even if propane is used; or
- If burning solid fuel is the sole source of heat for the residence.

Prohibition violations are subject to fines.

Daily wood-burning forecasts are available each day at 4:30 p.m. at <http://valleyair.org/CBYB>, by calling 1-800 SMOG INFO (766-4463), or by subscribing to the Air District's daily air quality forecast at <http://www.valleyair.org/lists/list.htm>. A free iPhone app, Valleyair, is available at iTunes and the App Store.

For more information about Check Before You Burn, visit www.valleyair.org or call a District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-326-6900).