

News Release

For immediate release

3-25-14

Attn: Local news and assignment editors



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Air District schedules wood-burning public workshop ***More wood-burning bans possible under amended rule***

The Valley Air District will seek public comments on the wintertime wood-burning rule at an upcoming public workshop at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 27. The meeting will be video-teleconferenced from all three regional District offices and also be webcast.

Rule 4901 (Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters) is being amended to further reduce the Valley's wintertime wood-burning emissions, protecting public health and bringing the air basin closer to attaining the federal health standard. Among the strategies being considered is establishing a lower prohibition level that would allow the use of clean wood-burning devices, while increasing the number of "no-burn" days for all other residential wood-burning devices. The District is also planning to enhance its *Burn Cleaner* incentive program, which provides funding to Valley residents to replace old wood burning devices with new, cleaner hearth options, such as natural gas inserts or EPA-certified devices.

Residential wood burning is the largest single contributor to harmful fine-particulate (PM2.5) emissions, which are associated with lung disease, heart attacks and strokes. Since the wood-burning rule was adopted in 2003, wintertime emissions have decreased significantly.

The workshop may be attended at the following locations: in Fresno, at 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.; in Bakersfield, at 34936 Flyover Court; and in Modesto, at 4800 Enterprise Way. Spanish-language translators will be available. It will be webcast at www.valleyair.org/workshops/public_workshops_idx.htm.

Information about this meeting is available at <http://www.valleyair.org/rules/1rulsidx.htm>. Paper copies of this information can be obtained by calling (559) 230-6100. Email notifications for this rule can be subscribed to at <http://www.valleyair.org/lists/list.htm>.

For information about the Valley Air District, visit www.valleyair.org or call (559) 230-6000.