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Attn: Local news, weather and assignment editors

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Air officials issue first fireplace prohibition of season for several San Joaquin Valley counties

Check Before You Burn **No Burning Unless Registered** wood-burning curtailments are in effect for **Sunday, Nov. 1** in **Madera, Fresno, Kings, and Tulare counties**. It is the first curtailment of the season.

The daylong mandatory curtailment that prohibits the use of unregistered devices because of poor air quality is in place through midnight **Sunday**. The curtailment applies to burning wood and pellets in unregistered residential stoves and inserts as well as burning wood, pellets, manufactured fire logs in fireplaces or outdoor burning devices such as fire pits and chimeneas.

The daily wood burning status is issued by county and residents can visit www.valleyair.org/CBYB daily to see which of these three possible declarations is in place for their county:



No Burning curtailment: No one can burn at their residence.



No Burning Unless Registered curtailment: Residents must register their emission-compliant wood-burning device with the District by visiting www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration in order to use their device during this declaration.



No Restrictions, Burning Discouraged: If burning is absolutely necessary, residents should use manufactured logs, dry/seasoned wood, pellets or a clean-burning device.

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. 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.

To find out if you can register your device with the Valley Air District visit www.valleyair.org/cbybregistration. The wood-burning status is also available by calling 1-800 SMOG INFO (766-4463), by subscribing to the daily email at www.valleyair.org/lists/list.htm, or by downloading "Valley Air" at the iPhone App Store.