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Media Contacts

Jaime Holt (559) 309-3336

Attn: Local news, weather and assignment editors

Stagnant weather conditions lead to “No Burning For All” fireplace curtailment for four counties

Poor air quality expected into the new year.

A *Check Before You Burn* **No Burning For All** wood-burning curtailment is in effect for **Wednesday, Dec. 27** in four of San Joaquin Valley air basin counties (**Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley air basin portion of Kern counties**). A persistent and strong high pressure system influencing the Valley has caused an exceptionally strong inversion layer, resulting in poor dispersion conditions and concentrating particulate matter (PM 2.5) to unhealthy levels throughout the Valley floor. Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley air basin portion of Kern Counties have air quality forecasted “unhealthy – red” for tomorrow. These unhealthy air quality levels are expected to remain into next week on until a change in the current weather pattern arrives.

Exposure to particulate pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections. Where conditions warrant, people with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors’ advice for dealing with episodes of particulate exposure. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy exertion, depending on their local conditions.

Residents are encouraged to check the nearest air monitor to their location to determine localized air-quality conditions as they change throughout the day. Visit the Real-time Air Advisory Network page on the District’s website to subscribe for free: www.valleyair.org/RAAN.

The daylong mandatory curtailment that prohibits the use of any wood burning device because of poor air quality is in place **midnight tonight through midnight Wednesday**. 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 one of the largest sources of harmful PM during the winter, can exacerbate 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.