

**For immediate release 3/01/17**

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## **2016-2017 Check Before You Burn season ends *Valley saw fewer wood burning restrictions this winter***

The 14th winter of the Valley's residential wood-burning program ended with record improvement in air quality.

"We are moving in the right direction thanks to the cooperation of Valley residents and their investments in cleaner devices," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's executive director and air pollution control officer. "Together with the increased funding for the Burn Cleaner program, which grants money for the purchase of cleaner devices, Check Before You Burn has had a remarkable effect on winter air quality in the Valley."

Check Before You Burn runs each winter from November through February and helps minimize the build-up of harmful fine particle pollution in the Valley. Each day during this period, a wood-burning declaration is issued for every county in the air basin that determines what, if any, residential wood-burning devices may be used.

Valley residents wanting to switch out older wood-burning devices for a cleaner model can still take advantage of the District's Burn Cleaner grants which provide \$1,000 for certified wood, pellet inserts, freestanding stoves or natural gas inserts or \$2,500 for eligible low-income applicants for all devices. An additional \$500 is available to all applicants for the installation costs on a natural gas device. Visit [www.valleyair.org/burncleaner](http://www.valleyair.org/burncleaner) for program guidelines.

Additionally, March through October, is a great time to get clean burning devices registered ahead of next year's wood burning season. Visit [www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration](http://www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration) for details.

Beginning today, the District will no longer issue a daily residential wood burning status for each county. While no formal burning restrictions will be in place until November 1, 2017, the District discourages residential wood burning.

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Wood-burning season ends

Page 2 of 2

3/01/17

County	No Burning Unless Registered		No Burning for All		Notices of Violation*	
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017
San Joaquin	36	22	0	0	77	46
Stanislaus	50	30	0	0	109	44
Merced	23	23	0	0	26	19
Madera	39	33	0	0	18	16
Fresno	65	43	0	0	87	69
Kings	59	39	0	0	13	7
Tulare	44	44	0	0	27	38
Kern	48	45	0	1	47	30
Sequoia National Park & Forest	0	1	0	0	0	0
Kern (Greater Frazier Park Area)	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals:</b>	364	281	0	1	404	269

\*Violations of wood-burning curtailments can result in notices of violation.