

News Release

For immediate release
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Attn: Local news, weather, health and assignment editors

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Air officials issue season’s first fireplace-use ban *Poor air quality in Kings, Kern counties*

The 2011-12 season’s first fireplace and wood stove prohibition has been issued in **Kings** and the **Valley portion of Kern counties** for Tuesday, Nov. 1, also the first day of this Check Before You Burn season.

The daylong, mandatory curtailment because of poor air quality will be in place from midnight Monday (Oct. 31) through midnight Tuesday (Nov. 1). The curtailment applies to burning wood, pellets and manufactured fire logs.

Check Before You Burn runs each winter from November through February and reduces wintertime particulate pollution by restricting the use of wood-burning devices when air quality is poor. Forecasts are issued by county.

“The past two winters have been exceptionally clean, in large part because of the public’s support of Check Before You Burn,” said Seyed Sadredin, the District’s executive director and air pollution control officer. “We are hopeful that this year will see a repeat of that scenario.”

Wood burning pumps dangerous particulate matter into Valley skies. It has been shown to cause lung infections and exacerbate respiratory and cardiac illness.

There are two levels of wood-burning forecast: “Wood Burning Prohibited” or “Please Burn Cleanly.” When a prohibition is declared, burning any solid fuel in a residential fireplace or wood-burning device is not permitted. There are two exceptions, however:

- 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 issued at 4:30 each afternoon and available at <http://www.valleyair.org/aqinfo/WoodBurnpage.htm>, 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>.