



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

Central District Media Contact - Fresno

Jaime Holt (559) 230-5850

Northern District Media Contact – Modesto

Anthony Presto (209) 557-6400

Southern District Media Contact – Bakersfield

Brenda Turner (661) 392-5500

Spanish Language Media Contact

Maricela Velasquez (559) 230-5849

First wood-burning prohibition in Stanislaus County
Fireplace ban also called Fresno County

The 2011-12 season's first fireplace and wood stove prohibition for **Stanislaus County** has been issued for Thurs., Nov. 10. A wood-burning prohibition has also been declared for **Fresno County**.

The daylong, mandatory curtailment because of poor air quality will be in place from midnight Wed., Nov. 9, through midnight Thurs., Nov. 10. The curtailment applies to burning wood, pellets and manufactured fire logs, as well as outdoor fire pits and chimineas.

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.

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>.