

## **No-burn season is just around the corner**

By Joshua Emerson Smith

Merced Sun-Star, Wed., October 31, 2012

The valley's no-burn seasons starts Nov. 1.

Before firing up a wood burning stove, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District asks residents to check at [www.valleyair.org/aqinfo/WoodBurnPage.htm](http://www.valleyair.org/aqinfo/WoodBurnPage.htm).

Depending on air quality forecasts, the air district prohibits residential wood burning, including the use of fireplaces, wood-burning heaters, pellet stoves and outdoor devices such as fire pits.

Burning wood on no-burn days can result in a fine. Exceptions are granted to residents without access to natural-gas service or for whom burning solid fuel is their sole source of heat.

The wood-burning curtailment program is critical in minimizing levels of harmful particulate matter in the eight-county air basin, according to regional air quality officials.

"Thanks to the public's support and cooperation, this rule is the single most-effective, lowest-cost regulation on record in the valley," said Seyed Sadredin, Air District executive director. "It is absolutely imperative to improved air quality."

On days when burning is allowed, the air district encourages residents to use manufactured fire logs or dry, seasoned wood. Gas fireplaces are always allowed.

Residential wood burning is considered to be the single largest source of harmful particulate matter during the winter. It can exacerbate respiratory illness and cause lung infections and bronchitis.

Thursday marks the 10th year of the wintertime pollution-reduction program, which officials said has resulted in "historically clean" wintertime air quality in the valley.

Daily wood-burning forecasts are posted online each day at 4:30 p.m., or by calling (800) 766-4463. Residents can sign up for e-mail notifications on the air district's Web site at [www.valleyair.org/lists/list.htm](http://www.valleyair.org/lists/list.htm).

## **Check Before You Burn begins**

Avenal Chimes, Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2012

The 10th season of an important wintertime pollution-reduction program begins Thurs., Nov. 1.

Because of Valley residents' ongoing efforts and understanding of the importance of changing long ingrained habits in ways that reduce emissions, Check Before You Burn has resulted in historically clean wintertime air quality in the Valley over the past several years. The wood-burning curtailment program is critical in minimizing levels of harmful particulate matter (PM) in the eight-county air basin.

"Thanks to the public's support and cooperation, this rule is the single most effective, lowest-cost regulation on record in the Valley," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's executive director and air pollution control officer. "It is absolutely imperative to improved air quality."

Each day, the Air District issues a wood-burning forecast by county for one of two levels: "Wood-burning prohibited" or "Please Burn Cleanly." When wood burning is prohibited, all residential wood burning -- including fireplaces, wood-burning inserts and heaters, pellet stoves and outdoor devices such as fire pits and chimineas -- is prohibited. When the forecast is "Please Burn Cleanly," the District encourages residents to use manufactured fire logs or dry, seasoned wood. And of course, gas fireplace use is always allowed.

Residential wood burning is the single largest source of harmful PM during winter and can pump 17 tons of PM into Valley skies daily. Fine-particulate matter (PM2.5) exacerbates respiratory illness, such as

asthma; causes lung infections and bronchitis; and has been correlated with increased risk of heart attacks and stroke.

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.

Daily wood-burning forecasts are available each day at 4:30 p.m. at <http://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>.

For more information about Check Before You Burn, visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) or call a District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-326-6900).

## **Check before you burn begins 10th season**

Hanford Sentinel, Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2012

The 10th season of the wintertime pollution-reduction program begins Thursday.

Each day the San Joaquin Air Pollution District issues a wood-burning forecast by county for one of two levels: "Wood-burning prohibited" and "Please burn cleanly."

When wood burning is prohibited, all residential wood burning, including fireplaces, wood-burning inserts and heaters, pellet stoves and outdoor devices such as fire pits and chimineas, is prohibited. "Please burn cleanly" means residents are asked to use manufactured fire logs or dry, seasoned wood. And of course, gas fireplace use is always allowed.

There are two exceptions: if the residence does not have access to natural-gas service or if burning solid fuel is the sole source of heat for the home.

Daily wood-burning forecasts are available each day at 4:30 p.m. at <http://tinyurl.com/9g29swd>, 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>.

## **Check Before You Burn starts Nov. 1**

Business Journal Tues., Oct. 30, 2012

Check Before You Burn, an important and successful wintertime pollution reduction program, will begin its 10<sup>th</sup> season Nov. 1.

The program has resulted in historically clean wintertime air quality in the Valley over the past several years, mostly due to residents who understood how important it was to change deep-seated habits in ways that would keep harmful particulate matter levels at a minimum.

"Thanks to the public's support and cooperation, this rule is the single most effective, lowest cost regulation on record in the Valley," said Seyed Sadredin, the Air Pollution Control District's executive director, in a release. "It is absolutely imperative to improved air quality."

Each day, the Air District issues a wood burning forecast by county for one of two levels: "Wood burning prohibited" and "Please Burn Cleanly." When wood burning is prohibited, all residential wood burning, including fireplaces, wood-burning inserts and heaters, pellet stoves and outdoor devices such as fire pits and chimneys, is prohibited. When the forecast is "Please Burn Cleanly," the District encourages residents to use manufactured fire logs or dry, seasoned wood. Gas fireplace use is always allowed.

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.
- Daily wood-burning forecasts will be available by county each day at 4:30 p.m. at <http://valleyair.org/aginfo/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>.