

## **Pollution district bans burning Friday**

Modesto Bee and Merced Sun-Star, Friday, Nov. 8, 2013

If that cool, crisp autumn air has you contemplating the fireplace, don't light that match.

Just more than a week into the "Check Before You Burn" program, the San Joaquin Valley Pollution Control District issued its first prohibition Friday.

Poor air quality prompted the district to issue the curtailment in Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Kings counties.

Through midnight, wood burning is prohibited. There are two exceptions: if the home doesn't have access to natural gas or if the wood burning is the only source of heat.

For more information on the program, go to [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) or call (209) 557-6400.

## **Community News - Check Before you Burn**

Sierra Star, Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2013

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Check Before you Burn began its 11th season Nov. 1. This wood-burning curtailment program has resulted in historically clean wintertime air quality in the valley, and continues through February.

During Check Before you Burn season, the Air District issues a daily wood-burning forecast by county: either "please burn cleanly" or "wood-burning prohibited." When wood burning is prohibited, burning any solid fuel is not allowed. A forecast of "please burn cleanly" urges 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 another source of heat or if the residence does not have access to natural gas-service (even if propane is used).

Using a fireplace or wood-burning device — insert, stove or pellet stove — on a prohibited day without an exemption will result in a fine.

Daily wood-burning forecasts are available each day at 4:30 p.m. at [valleyair.org/aqinfo/WoodBurnPage.htm](http://valleyair.org/aqinfo/WoodBurnPage.htm) or by calling (1-800) 766-4463 Details: (559) 230-6000 (Fresno).