

Burn suspension lifted

Sierra Star, Thursday, January 30, 2014

Due to the recent rainfall, CAL FIRE will lift the burn suspension for the State Responsibility Area within Eastern Madera County as of 12 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014. Hazard reduction burning in Eastern Madera County will be allowed with a valid San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District permit.

The following guidelines are required when conducting a hazard reduction burn:

- *Property owners conducting hazard reduction burning are responsible for checking the burn day status by calling the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District burn line at 1-877-429-2876 prior to igniting their hazard reduction pile.
- *Do not burn material that is wet or damp, as this can cause excessive smoke. Excessive smoke is prohibited and will result in penalties.
- *Provide adequate clearance (minimum of within 10 feet of the outer edge of the pile) around the burn pile to avoid its escape.
- *Keep a water supply close to the burning site.
- *An adult must be in attendance until the fire is extinguished.
- *Do not burn on windy days.
- *Do not use any flammable liquid (such as gasoline or diesel fuel) to ignite a fire.
- *Make sure the burn pile is free of prohibited materials: No household trash, garbage or construction materials.
- *Burn only natural vegetation removed while maintaining a defensible space.

Burn Permits Required:

Hazard reduction burning is permitted only when meteorological conditions are good for smoke dispersal. In addition, CAL FIRE, MMU may impose fire restrictions and prohibit open burning due to elevated risks of fire danger.

Creating a nuisance can result in a violation subject to penalties. Please burn with caution. Burning anything in a burn barrel is illegal.

Burn permits may be obtained at your nearest CAL FIRE or Madera County Fire Station:

CAL FIRE Ahwahnee, 43033 Highway 49 South, Ahwahnee CAL FIRE Raymond, 34951 Road 606, Raymond CAL FIRE Rancheria, 53488 Road 200, North Fork CAL FIRE Bass Lake 38333 Road 223, Oakhurst Madera County Station 12, 48355 Liberty Drive, Oakhurst Madera County Station 8, 47050 Road 417, Coarsegold

For more information you may call or stop by your nearest CAL FIRE or Madera County Fire Station or visit the CAL FIRE web site at www.fire.ca.gov or www.ReadyForWildfire.org

[Fresno Bee editorial, Friday, Jan. 31, 2014:](#)

Our air and kids' health

On Tuesday, Valley Public Radio's Rebecca Plevin reported a chilling story on findings by Dr. Kari Nadeau of the Stanford School of Medicine.

Based on her research with young asthma patients, Nadeau believes that exposure to the San Joaquin Valley's worst-in-the-nation air pollution was possibly causing changes to children's DNA.

Reported Plevin: "(Nadeau) noticed that many of her child asthma patients had abnormally low levels of regulatory T-cells, which are crucial to maintaining a healthy immune system.

"Then, she noticed something interesting.

" 'I went back and looked at age, ethnicity and address and, low and behold, the addresses were all in one area of the country,' Nadeau recalls.

"Fresno, to be exact."

Nadeau also discovered that Fresno children who don't have asthma have lower regulatory T-cell levels than children in clean-air Palo Alto with asthma.

"This study was all about associations, but it implied, and you could infer that, at the DNA level, there were some changes going on in people who lived in Fresno, and those changes were associated with the level of PAH in the air, Nadeau told Plevin.

PAH, or polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, "are created when products like coal, oil, gas and garbage are burned but the burning process is not complete," according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Fumes from vehicle exhaust, coal, coal tar, asphalt, wildfires, agricultural burning and hazardous waste sites are all sources of exposure."

Nadeau is among the researchers from Stanford and UC Berkeley who are studying children's health and air pollution in the Valley. They are funded by a five-year grant from EPA and the National Institutes of Health.

Context is everything in life. So we must note that two days after Plevin broke her story, the Fresno City Council voted 4-3 to scrap a nearly decade-long effort to build Bus Rapid Transit lines.

The city wanted to use \$50 million in state and federal grants for the system, which reduces air pollution and moves people more quickly through the city.

The victorious opponents — Lee Brand, Steve Brandau, Paul Caprioglio and Clint Olivier — gave their reasons for killing the project. Not enough people will ride it. Fresno can't afford it. It doesn't cut enough pollution. Fix the regular bus system instead. The general plan needs to be rewritten first to meet the housing preferences of residents.

City Manager Bruce Rudd says that Fresno has about 30 days to rework the BRT plan, earn council approval and save the grants.

We suggest that the four council members — who clearly answer to developers first and the health of the community second — read Plevin's story at www.kvpr.org.