

Free emissions tests set for fairgrounds

Stockton Record, Friday, March 28, 2014

A free emissions test will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 5 at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, 1658 S. Airport Way in Stockton, for the first 525 drivers who attend. Cars that do not pass the test will receive a \$500 voucher for smog repairs at a participating STAR smog shop.

Information: (800) 806-2004 or valley-can.org.

Valley air district to consider more "no burn" days

By Kristin Price

KGET, Thursday, March 27, 2014

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is looking at increasing the number of "no burn" days. It's an effort to improve air quality. The valley air district is holding a workshop Thursday, to discuss lowering the particulate pollution standard -- classifying a "no burn" day.

Check before you burn -- that's the message the valley air district has been sending out for eleven years.

Valley air district Outreach & communications representative Anthony Presto said, "In 2003 we started this program which calls for wood burning bans or mandatory curtailments when air quality is approaching that unhealthy level, for particulate pollution, in winter months."

The proposed amendment would also include some areas of moderate air quality, meaning more no burn days.

Air district representatives say air quality is improving.

Presto said, "Especially since we started the Check Before You Burn program we've seen a definite improvement every winter, except for this last wood burning season when we had a long period of extremely dry, stagnant conditions."

This winter, the district issued 51 burning restriction days in our county -- compared to 36 the previous season.

Some residents say stricter burning restrictions are a good thing.

Local resident Samuel Padilla said, "There's a lot of people who have asthma around here. So that would be very beneficial. I think it's a good idea."

Others say more "no burn days" aren't the solution.

Richard Welch said, "I don't think there's that many people really burning real wood fireplaces anymore."

Jerry Griggs said, "We get smog from all up and down the valley. So I don't know that it's going to do any good. We pay the price. Just like we do with smog control on our vehicles."

The meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. It's a video teleconference from the regional district offices. The public is invited to attend and submit comments at the Bakersfield office located on Flyover Court.

For more information visit their website at valleyair.org.