

## **No-fireplace-burn rule expanded**

Excerpt from Hanford Sentinel clip, Monday, Sep 22, 2014

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From Nov. 1 to February, the number of no-burn days is likely to double thanks to tougher standards adopted earlier this month by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District board of directors.

District officials say the enhanced rule is necessary to better control small particle emissions that are considered the Valley's most dangerous form of air pollution. The stricter rules are aimed at bringing the Valley's small particle pollution into compliance with standards mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

One change is that on no burn days where the pollutant level is lower, people who register their wood-burning stoves with the district will be allowed to burn. Pellet stoves and newer-generation stoves with an EPA certification are required.

Financial aid is available for homeowners who need an upgrade.

On days when the particulate level is higher, all wood burning will be banned period.

One thing hasn't changed: Natural gas stoves, residents in areas without natural gas hook-ups and residents who have no other way to heat their home are exempt from the no-burn days.

Go to [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) for more information about the "Check Before You Burn" program.