

Tulare County burn-permit suspension lifted

Porterville Recorder, Tuesday, November 17, 2015

CalFire Tulare Unit Chief Paul Marquez on Monday cancelled the burn permit suspension and advises that those possessing current and valid agriculture and residential burn permits can now resume burning on permissible burn days.

Inspections may be required for hazard-reduction burns. This can be verified by contacting a CalFire station. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) burn permits issued by CalFire will be required until further notice.

Property owners and residents are asked to use caution while conducting debris burns. They are advised to follow all guidelines, and maintain control of the fire at all times. Individuals can be held civilly and/or criminally liable for allowing a fire to escape their control and/or burn onto neighboring property.

Residents must verify if burning is allowed on a particular day by contacting SJVAPCD at 877-429-2876 or visiting www.valleyair.org.

For more information visit www.fire.ca.gov.

[In the Modesto Bee and Fresno Bee, OpEd, Wednesday, November 18, 2016](#)

Seyed Sadredin: Wood smoke can make Valley air dangerous to breathe

By Seyed Sadredin

The Valley Air District's mission is to improve the health and quality of life for all Valley residents through efficient, effective and entrepreneurial air quality management strategies.

We do this through regulations designed to protect public health, through public education to empower Valley residents, and through incentive programs that help residents, businesses and public agencies replace existing equipment and vehicles with something cleaner.

It's vital that all residents understand air quality issues in the Valley, as air pollution affects all of us. Everyone's cooperation is necessary to reach the tough air quality standards established by the federal EPA and the Valley's clean-air goals.

The Valley Air District's Check Before You Burn residential wood-burning rule was established to minimize the build-up of dangerous fine particulates called PM2.5 – often the kind emanating from wood smoke – in the air. This rule specifically improves air quality during winter months.

Wood smoke is a serious wintertime health threat. It increases the risk of lung disease, respiratory illness, heart attacks and stroke. Residential wood burning can contribute up to two-thirds of total winter-time PM2.5 emissions. Reducing emissions from wood smoke is crucial.

Look in The Bee or the district's online site for the Check Before You Burn daily rating. Starting on Nov. 1 each year and going through February, Check Before Your Burn includes three possible curtailment levels.

- “No Restrictions, Burning Discouraged” means air quality is good and anyone can use their wood-burning device.
- “No Burning Unless Registered” means only individuals with a clean-burning wood insert or stove, who have registered that device with the Valley Air District, are allowed to burn.
- “No Burning For All” means air quality is very poor and use of all residential wood-burning devices is prohibited.

To complement the residential wood-burning rule, the Valley Air District's Burn Cleaner grant program helps residents change from using open-hearth fireplaces or older wood-burning devices to clean-burning stoves and inserts. The District's Burn Cleaner incentive program offers residents up to \$1,000 off the cost of upgrading to an EPA-certified wood-burning stove or insert, pellet stove or insert, or a natural-gas stove or insert.

Low-income residents will be eligible for up to \$2,500 off the cost of these appliances. In addition, Valley residents who choose to install a natural gas device can receive an additional \$500. For a low-income resident, that's a total of \$3,000, which can typically cover the total expense of purchasing and installing such devices.

Registration information, grant program guidelines, Burn Cleaner application and a list of participating retailers is available on the Valley Air District's website at valleyair.org/rule4901.

Seyed Sadredin is executive director/air pollution control officer of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District