

# VALLEY AIR NEWS

A monthly publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - March 2014

## 11th Check Before You Burn season ends with increased curtailments



Historically abnormal, severe meteorological conditions plagued the state and Central Valley this winter, resulting in a dramatic increase in wood-burning curtailments during the 11th Check Before You Burn residential wood-burning season.

During the season, which began Nov. 1, 2013 and ended Feb. 28, the incidents of wood-burning curtailments throughout the eight-county air basin was up 102 percent over last winter. Check Before You Burn requires wood-burning curtailments on days when levels of fine-particulate matter (PM2.5) are forecast to exceed the federal health standard. Wood-burning forecasts are issued daily for each county.

“This was an unusual winter not only for the Valley but for the entire state,” said Jaime Holt, the Air District’s chief communications officer. “Without these extreme conditions, this winter would have been the cleanest on record for the Valley,” continuing the trend of dramatic air-quality improvement each winter since Check Before You Burn was enacted more than a decade ago.

PM2.5 is a particularly harmful type of air pollution that is linked to chronic lung disease, respiratory illness, heart attacks and premature death. Check Before You Burn minimizes the build-up of particulates.

The chart below shows the number of prohibited days and notices of violation for the 2013/14 wood burning season with a comparison to the prior season.

County	Prohibitions 2013-14 (2012-13)	Notices of Violation 2013-14 (2012-13)
San Joaquin	45 (21)	72 (84)
Stanislaus	53 (28)	130 (69)
Merced	25 (2)	65 (2)
Madera	39 (6)	21 (24)
Fresno	59 (43)	163 (128)
Kings	53 (27)	24 (6)
Tulare	51 (24)	47 (19)
Kern (Valley portion)	51 (36)	47 (28)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>376 (186)</b>	<b>569 (384)</b>

## Spring events to put on your calendar

April 4 - Earth Day at Fresno State, 10a-4p. More info: [benson.earth.day@gmail.com](mailto:benson.earth.day@gmail.com).

April 5 - Tune In, Tune Up (TITU), Stockton, San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, 9a-3p. Info: [valleyair.org/grants/pass.htm](http://valleyair.org/grants/pass.htm)

April 6 - Earth Day, Stockton, Victory Park, 10a-4p.

April 8. Enviro-Business Fair. CSU Stanislaus, 10a-1p. Info: 209-664-6571.

April 12 - Greater Bakersfield Green Expo, Yokuts Park, 8a-1p. Info: [www.facebook.com/bakogreenexpo](http://www.facebook.com/bakogreenexpo)

April 19 - Earth Day Modesto, Graceada Park, 10a-4p.

April 26 - Garden Fest, Bakersfield College, 9a-4p. More info: [891418088421670332.weebly.com/](http://891418088421670332.weebly.com/)

April 26 - TITU, Turlock, Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 9a-3p.

May 1 - World Asthma Day Health Fair, Memorial Medical Center, Modesto, 10a-2p.

May 3 - World Asthma Day Health Fair, Mercy Medical Center, Merced, 8:30a-1p.

May 10 - TITU, Bakersfield, 9a-3p.

May 13 - Bike to Work Day, Oakdale.

May 14 - Bike to Work Day, Stockton, Janet Leigh Plaza, 6:30-9a.

May 15 - Bike to Work Day, Modesto, 10th St. Plaza, 6:30-8:30a

May 15 - Bike to Work Day, Lodi, Veteran’s Plaza, 6:30-8:30a.

May 16 - Bike to Work Day, Merced, Energizer stations throughout the city. 6:30a-10a.

May 23 - Earth Day Celebration at Golden Valley Health, Merced. 10a-3p.

May 31 - TITU, Tulare, 9a-3p