

# VALLEY AIR NEWS

A monthly publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - December 2015

## CARB attributes fewer hospitalizations to wood burning rule

The California Air Resources (CARB) recently reported a link in wintertime reductions of fine particulate matter pollution (PM2.5) and fewer breathing-related hospital admissions to the Valley Air District's Rule 4901-Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters. The rule is also known as the Check Before You Burn Program.

Rule 4901 (Check Before You Burn), adopted and implemented in 2003, focuses on mandatory wood burning curtailments when PM2.5 levels begin to rise to unhealthy levels during winter months – November through February.

In an effort to protect public health, Check Before You Burn, now in its 13<sup>th</sup> season, reduces PM2.5 emissions from the Valley's largest wintertime source – residential wood burning.

Since November 2014, the program has operated on a three level system that allows fewer days of wood burning for heavier-emitting, open fireplaces and older wood stoves, while allowing more burning by residents who have invested in cleaner pellet-fueled heaters and EPA certified wood stoves/inserts and registered their devices with the District.

An explanation of wood burning curtailment levels can be found on the District's website: [valleyair.org/rule4901/episodic-curtailments.htm](http://valleyair.org/rule4901/episodic-curtailments.htm).

"ARB's research provides evidence that these 'check-before-you-burn' programs, combined with public education, are helping to reduce harmful wintertime air pollution and protect public health," CARB Chair Mary D. Nichols said.

The ARB study found that after the implementation of the wood burning regulation in the San Joaquin Valley in the winter:

- PM2.5 was reduced by 12% basin-wide and by 11% and 15% in rural and urban regions of the basin, respectively.
- Larger, coarse particulate matter was reduced 8% basin-wide and in rural (7%) and urban (11%) areas of the basin.
- The number of hospital admissions for all types of cardiovascular disease in adults 65 and older dropped by 7% basin-wide. In addition, hospitalizations for ischemic heart disease, a specific type of cardiovascular disease often known as coronary artery disease, dropped by 16% basinwide. Reductions in rural areas were even higher for both categories of hospital admissions.

Valley Residents can find the daily Check Before You Burn declarations for their county by calling 1-800-SMOG-IN-FO (1-800-766-4463), by visiting the District's website at: [www.valleyair.org/CBYB](http://www.valleyair.org/CBYB), or by using the Valleyair iPhone app.

In addition, The Burn Cleaner Program is still available to all Valley residents who wish to upgrade from an open fireplace or non-certified wood stove/insert to a clean-burning, EPA Certified wood/pellet stove/insert or natural gas stove/insert. Incentives range from \$1,000 with up to \$500 in additional funding toward the installation of a natural gas unit and \$2,500 for low income residents for EPA wood, pellet and natural gas devices and up to an additional \$500 to apply toward natural gas device installation. More information on the Burn Cleaner Program at: [valleyair.org/grants/burn-cleaner.htm](http://valleyair.org/grants/burn-cleaner.htm).



The artwork of 15 talented Valley students is featured in the 2016 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar.

This annual, bilingual wall calendar showcases art by children in each of the Valley's eight counties, chosen from hundreds of entries.

The students below entered drawings with creative and insightful clean-air messages:

- Sophia Torres, 1st grade, Modesto
- Parth Mishra, 2nd grade, Merced
- Advaitaa Shyam, 2nd grade, Merced
- Noah Caskey, 2nd grade, Hanford
- Darrel DJ Knight, 2nd grade, Hanford
- Katie Heinks, 2nd grade, Visalia
- Althea Mumford, 2nd grade, Turlock
- Esteli Means, 4th grade, Bakersfield
- Eliel Crisanto, 4th grade, Lodi
- Viana Aiyabei, 6th grade, Fresno
- Safia Haq, 6th grade, Fresno
- Jocelynn Urquidez, 6th grade, Merced
- Monica Pena, 7th grade, Bakersfield
- Katie Thompson, 11th grade, Oakhurst

The 2016 calendars can be reserved, while supplies last, by emailing [public.education@valleyair.org](mailto:public.education@valleyair.org), and can be picked up in any District office: in Fresno, at 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave. (559-230-6000), in Modesto, at 4800 Enterprise Way (209-557-6400), and in Bakersfield, at 34936 Flyover Court (661-392-5500).