

VALLEY AIR NEWS

A monthly publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - October 2016

Check Before You Burn season to begin

The 14th season of the Valley's wintertime residential wood burning curtailment program begins Nov. 1.

The residential wood burning season in the San Joaquin Valley runs from Nov. 1 through the end of February every year. A key component of Rule 4901, Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters (a.k.a. Check Before You Burn), is a daily wood-burning declaration for each Valley county, issued by the Air District. The three different declaration levels are "No Burning for All," "No Burning Unless Registered" and "No Restrictions, Burning Discouraged."

"No Burning Unless Registered" applies to residents in the Valley who own an EPA Phase II certified wood/pellet-burning device and register their unit with the Valley Air District. This allows the resident to burn more often, while still dramatically reducing wintertime particle pollution.

Wood burning declarations coincide with the daily air quality forecast, allowing for residential wood burning in open fireplaces, older non-certified stoves and inserts only on the cleanest days.

When air quality is expected to exceed unhealthy levels for fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), the "No Burning for All" declaration is issued. This declaration prohibits the use of all solid fuel devices, including open fireplaces, wood and pellet-burning stoves and inserts, and outdoor wood burning appliances, such as fire pits and chimeneas.

There are two exceptions to wood-burning prohibitions; if the residence does not have another source of heat or if the residence does not have access to natural-gas service (even if propane is used) then they are exempt from the rule

and may continue to use their device. Additionally, fireplace inserts or stoves that run solely on natural gas or propane continue to be exempt from the rule.

Check Before You Burn is a critical component of the Air District's efforts to reduce winter time particulate matter pollution. The Valley fails to meet federal ambient air quality standards for fine particulate matter pollution (PM 2.5) and is required to adopt all feasible control strategies to reduce this harmful pollutant in the Valley.

"Prolonged exposure to residential wood smoke can lead to pulmonary arterial hypertension, pulmonary heart disease, heart failure and cancer," said Seyed Sadredin, Air District executive director and air pollution control officer. In addition, PM 2.5 reduces lung function and exacerbates asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

There are several ways that Valley residents can check the daily wood burning declaration before lighting up:

- Visit valleyair.org/cbyb
- Download the free iPhone app "Valley Air" from the App Store.
- Call 1-800-766-4463 (1-800-SMOG-INFO)

Register Your Device

Cleaner wood-burning devices such as EPA certified stoves/inserts and pellet-fueled heaters can be registered with the Valley Air District and allowed to burn more frequently than older, non-certified stoves and open fireplaces.

Such devices emit only a fraction of the pollution emitted by fireplaces and other non-certified devices.

To register a clean-burning device, visit:



www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration/ and select a Registered Wood Burning Heater Professional (RWBHP) to inspect the unit and perform the registration procedure. The inspection and registration process can only be performed by a Valley Air District-approved RWBHP.

Residents who wish to continue to use their clean device when wood burning declarations are "No Burn Unless Registered," should register every three years. A streamlined process that does not require an RWBHP is allowed for residents who have purchased a new device within the last 12 months of the time of registration.

Valley residents who want to switch out their older wood-burning device for a cleaner model can take advantage of



the District's Burn Cleaner program which offers \$1,000 for EPA certified wood/pellet inserts, freestanding stoves or natural gas inserts. The program also offers \$2500 for eligible low-income applicants on all devices. An additional \$500 is available to all applicants toward the installation cost of a natural gas device. To participate in this program please visit www.valleyair.org/burncleaner or call (559) 230-5800.

