

VALLEY AIR NEWS

October 2021



Residential winter wood burning season begins November 1

The Valley Air District's winter residential wood burning reduction program runs from November 1 through the end of February, protecting public health by limiting the use of wood burning devices and reducing wintertime particulate matter pollution (PM2.5). Wood smoke contributes to lung disease, heart disease and increases the risk of stroke.

Residential wood burning is one of the Valley's largest sources of wintertime PM2.5 emissions and shown to have a direct effect on neighborhood air quality. San Joaquin Valley residents are urged to heat their homes by means other than burning wood whenever possible, improving wintertime air quality and quality of life.

During the winter season, the District releases a daily, county-by-county wood burning declaration based on the air quality forecast, available by visiting valleyair.org/CBYB, using the Valley Air app on any mobile device or calling 1-800-SMOG-INFO (1-800-766-4463).

For full details on District Rule 4901 Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters, visit valleyair.org/Rule4901.

Valley Air District inspector wins prestigious award



Supervising Air Quality Inspector, Kathy Crump, is the recipient of this year's Rodney Swartzendruber Outstanding Inspector Award. The award, named for a Valley Air District air-quality inspector who died in the line of duty, is given each year by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) Enforcement Managers' Committee to an inspector in one of the state's 35 air quality management districts.

Kathi's wide array of contributions over her 25-year career include answering complaints and conducting inspections, health risk assessments, shaping policy in asbestos enforcement, developing rules in gasoline vapor recovery and many other technical compliance advancements.

"Her dedication to public service, intelligence, work ethic, and service to enhance public health for all Californians makes her an outstanding example of the work performed across our state." said Jacob Whitson, Valley Air District Director of Compliance.

Presentation of this award has taken place since 2003 in honor of Rodney Swartzendruber, an inspector killed in an auto accident while assisting the state Air Resources Board during the Westley tire fire in Stanislaus County in 1999, and recognizes inspectors who consistently demonstrate outstanding performance and make significant contributions that benefit air pollution control efforts in an exemplary manner.

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