

News Release



To: City, health and assignment editors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District urges Valley residents keep clean air in mind over Thanksgiving holiday

Fresno – Air District officials urge Valley residents to think about their impact on air quality if they consider lighting a fire over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Air quality is expected to be good to moderate throughout the District Thursday, Nov. 22 and Friday, Nov. 23, and officials do not expect to issue wood-burning prohibitions. However, officials urge the public to be aware that any wood-burning activity will add to emissions in the air and possibly cause air quality to deteriorate.

“Even though air quality is relatively good right now, we encourage people to consider their health and that of their neighbors, and refrain from lighting a fire,” said Seyed Sadredin, the Air District’s Air Pollution Control Officer.

Wood burning emits particulate matter (PM), which is detrimental to health. High levels of PM can exacerbate respiratory conditions and cause illness.

From November through February, the Air District conducts the seasonal program Check Before You Burn, and prohibits burning solid fuel when air quality deteriorates to levels that are unhealthy.

The upcoming two-day holiday forecast is for good (0-50) and moderate (51-100) air quality throughout the eight-county District (San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and portions of Kern). Specific county-by-county forecasts are available at www.valleyair.org and 1-800 SMOG INFO (766-4463).

And remember: Burning trash is NEVER allowed.

For more information, visit www.valleyair.org or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400; Fresno (559) 230-6000; or Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.