

# News Release

01-01-2007

For Immediate Release



Weekend and After-Hours Media Contact  
**Jaime Holt**, Public Information Administrator  
Cell: (559) 284-6317

**TO:**

**Local news sections**

**Weather sections**

## **Fireplace use prohibited Tuesday in Fresno and the valley portion of Kern counties**

Stagnant air and increasing smoke emissions lead to daylong ban on wood burning

(Fresno, CA) – A fireplace and woodstove ban has been issued for Fresno and the Valley portion of Kern counties due to expected poor air quality. The daylong mandatory curtailment will be in effect all Tuesday, from midnight Monday through at least midnight Tuesday.

The mandatory curtailment applies to burning wood, pellets and manufactured firelogs, as well as outdoor fire pits and chimeneas.

The Check Before You Burn program, which runs Nov. 1 through Feb. 28, aims to reduce fall and wintertime air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley. Mandatory curtailments are issued on a countywide basis when air quality is expected to be unhealthy for the general public, or an Air Quality Index that exceeds 150. Violations can result in fines. Voluntary curtailments are issued when air quality is expected to be unhealthy for sensitive groups, or an AQI between 101 and 150.

A voluntary curtailment has been issued for Tuesday in Tulare, Madera, Stanislaus, Merced, and Kings counties, meaning that residents are asked to voluntarily refrain from using wood-burning devices unless they are stoves and inserts that meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 1990 standards; are pellet-fueled; or burn manufactured firelogs.

Wednesday's wood-burning status will be available by 4 p.m. Tuesday. It is provided in English and Spanish toll-free at 1-800 SMOG INFO (1-800-766-4463) and at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org). Updates in Hmong are available toll-free at 1-877-344-1212. The status also is provided as a public service by many news outlets.

Mandatory curtailments do not apply to: cooking devices; any devices that use natural gas or propane exclusively; homes and businesses that don't have connections to natural-gas service; homes and businesses in areas 3,000 feet or higher in elevation; and homes in which no other heating device exists and wood-burning is the sole source of heat.

When wood burning is allowed, it should be done as cleanly as possible. Also, it is illegal to burn garbage or treated wood either in a fireplace or outdoors at any time. Additionally, the wood-burning curtailment program should not be confused with other Air District programs that regulate hazard-reduction burning, prescribed burning and agricultural burning.

#####

The Valley Air District serves eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern. For assistance, contact the nearest District office in Modesto at (209) 557-6440, Fresno (559) 230-6000 or Bakersfield (661) 326-6900, or visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org).