

Warm weather to hang on in Valley through next week

Modesto Bee and Merced Sun-Star, Friday, Jan. 3, 2014

Unseasonably warm weather will hang on in the central San Joaquin Valley through early next week, the National Weather Service in Hanford said.

Daytime highs will remain in the mid-60s through at least Tuesday -- about 12 degrees warmer than normal for this time of year. Overnight lows will hover around the upper 30s, typical for the season, the weather service said.

The warm weather will be accompanied by foul air, according to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Friday's forecast calls for unhealthy conditions in Fresno, Kings and Madera counties, and unhealthy for sensitive groups in Madera County, the air district said.

Air district offering money for clean fireplaces

by Business Journal staff

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The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is accepting applications for its Burn Clean Program in an effort to encourage more clean burning fireplaces.

As part of the program, Valley residents can get incentive money when they replace their old wood or pellet burning device with new, cleaner hearth options such as a natural gas insert or an EPA Phase II certified wood insert.

Incentives are limited to \$500 for the purchase of a freestanding natural gas stove or insert, \$250 for a certified pellet stove or insert and \$100 for a certified wood stove or insert.

Priority will be given to low-income applicants, who can get up to \$1,500 for an eligible heating device.

Photos of the old device must be submitted with the voucher applications, which is available online at www.valleyair.org/grants/burncleaner.

Once a voucher is approved, the recipient may take it to a participating program retailer before the expiration date and schedule an installation.

After the new device is installed, a claim for payment form can be submitted along with the signed voucher, a copy of the invoice and worker order and a post-installation photo.

Only devices installed in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the San Joaquin Valley portion of Kern County will be eligible for the incentives.

Other eligibility guidelines and a list of participating retailers throughout the San Joaquin Valley can be downloaded on the website.

The program was launched to help reduce particulate matter produced from older heating devices that contribute to Valley air pollution during the fall and winter months.