

VALLEY AIR NEWS

New study: Wood-burning rules save lives

A recent health study has concluded that the San Joaquin Valley's residential wood-burning rule saves lives.

The study, conducted in November by the Central Valley Health Policy Institute of California State University, Fresno, found that a reduction in fine particulate-matter pollution (PM2.5), due to the District's wood-burning curtailment rule, resulted in fewer deaths as well as monetary savings in the San Joaquin Valley.

The Air District's Health Science Advisor, Dr. David Lighthall, led the study, which also confirmed that fine particles in wood smoke penetrate the lungs, enter the bloodstream and cause cardiovascular damage. The study noted

that the number of premature deaths from wood-smoke exposure decreased in study areas (see chart below) since the Air District adopted mandatory wood-burning curtailment rules in 2003.

Lighthall's study also verified that the Valley's chronic wintertime inversions hold wood smoke down at ground level in stagnant weather, further localizing concentrations of PM2.5 to the neighborhoods where the emissions originate.

A software program developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were used in the study to calculate a cost savings to the Valley resulting from an improvement in PM2.5 pollution.



BurnCleaner
Fireplace and Woodstove Change-out

District boosts Burn Cleaner incentive

Beginning in February, the Air District will again offer residents of the San Joaquin Valley an incentive to replace older wood-burning stoves with new, cleaner-burning wood, pellet and gas stoves. The program also upgrades open hearth fireplaces with wood, pellet and gas-burning inserts.

This year, the District is improving the program by increasing discount amounts, providing a larger discount for qualifying low-income residents, and removing the deadline date for participation.

The 2009 Burn Cleaner Program offers residents the choice of upgrading wood-burning fireplaces with natural gas, EPA Phase II-certified wood-burning or pellet-fueled inserts at a \$750 discount.

The same discount is offered for replacing older, free-standing wood stoves with new, cleaner-burning, wood, pellet and gas stoves.

A low-income component has also been added to the program. Residents who currently receive low-income discounts on their natural gas or electric bills may be eligible for a Burn Cleaner discount of \$1,500.

Previously, Burn Cleaner ran from February 1-April 30 only. In the 2009, the program begins in mid-February and will be available until funds are depleted.

How to participate

Residents living in the San Joaquin Valley who wish to take advantage of this opportunity, can visit any participating retailer prior to upgrading their fireplace or wood stove to receive a discount.

To find out more about the Burn Cleaner Program, visit the District's website at www.valleyair.org.

Study Area	Pollution Reduction	Reduction in Deaths	Healthcare Savings
Fresno/Clovis	13.6 %	35 - 85	11 - 26.6 million dollars
Bakersfield	12.9%	18 - 48	5.7 - 14.1 million dollars

District's southern office moves to new location

The District's Southern Region office has relocated to a new building at 34946 Flyover Court, Bakersfield, 93308.

All phone numbers have also changed. The new main number for the Bakersfield office is (661) 392-5500.

Every effort is being made to ensure no break in service, but you may experience minor delays due to the transfer of technology infrastructure from the old office to the new.