



# VALLEY AIR NEWS

A monthly publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - March 2016

## Wood burning season ends with fewer restrictions

The 13th winter season of the residential wood-burning program, *Check Before You Burn*, ended on February 29th with record improvement in air quality.

During the season, a daily wood-burning declaration is issued for every county in the air basin, announcing if residential wood burning restrictions will be in effect, based on the daily air quality forecast.

Last winter, the regulation was amended to allow users of EPA Phase II-certified wood and pellet-burning devices to register them with the District and use them more frequently than they were allowed in past winters.

“We are moving in the right direction, thanks to the cooperation of Valley residents and their investments in cleaner devices,” said Seyed Sadredin, the District’s executive director and air pollution control officer. “Together, with increased funding for the *Burn Cleaner* program, which grants money for the purchase of cleaner-burning devices, *Check Before You Burn* has had a very positive effect on winter air quality in the Valley.”

While registered devices could be used more often, the Valley saw significant improvements this winter and the

“No Burning For All” declaration was not needed. “No Burning For All” is declared when PM 2.5 levels become critically unhealthy and prohibit both registered and non-registered devices from burning.

Comparatively, last winter, there were a total of 36 “No Burning For All” curtailments throughout the air basin.

Additionally, this season experienced far fewer days during which the fine-particle level exceeded the federal health standard of 35 micrograms per cubic meter.

Valley residents who would like to upgrade from an older wood-burning device to a cleaner model can still take advantage of the District’s *Burn Cleaner* grants which provide \$1,000 for certified wood, pellet or natural gas stoves/inserts. Low income applicants are eligible for a \$2,500 incentive on such devices. An additional \$500 is available to all applicants for the installation costs on a natural gas device. In addition, residents are encouraged to register their cleaner devices quickly to avoid any delays prior to the November 1 start of the next burn season. Visit [www.valleyair.org/burncleaner](http://www.valleyair.org/burncleaner) for program guidelines.

## Mark your calendar for these important events

March 19: Tune In & Tune Up - Mosqueda Community Center, Fresno Fairgrounds, 8am-12n.

March 30: State of the Air in the Central Valley, Asthma Coalition of Kern County and the American Lung Association. Kern Health Systems in Bakersfield, 12:30-2pm. [facebook.com/kernasthma](https://www.facebook.com/kernasthma)

April 9: Tune In & Tune Up - Stockton, San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, 8am-12n.

April 18: Sunshine Day - Children’s Services Network, Roeding Park, Fresno, 10am-2pm.

April 22: Earth Day - Golden Valley Health Center, Merced, 10am-3pm.

April 23: Greater Bakersfield Green Expo - Yokuts Park, 8am-1pm.

April 23: Earth Day Festival - Modesto - Graceada Park, 10am-4pm.

April 23: Earth Day Festival - Visalia, St. John’s Riverwalk Park, 10am-2pm.

April 23: Fresno Earth Day - Radio Park, 10am-4pm.

April 23: Tune In & Tune Up - Lemoore, West Hills College, 8am-12n.

April 24: Earth Day Celebration Stockton, Victory Park, 10am-4pm.

May 7: Tune In & Tune Up - Bakersfield, Kern County Fairgrounds, 8am-12n.

May 14: Mercy’s Annual Family Festival & Health Fair, Mercy Medical Center, Merced, 8am-1pm

May 17: Bike to Work Day Newman, 6:30am-8:30am

May 19: Bike to Work Day Modesto - 10th St. Place, 6:30am-8:30am.

May 21: Tune In & Tune Up - Fresno County Fairgrounds, 9am-3pm.

County	No Burning Unless Registered		No Burning for All		Notices of Violation*	
	2014-2015	2015-2016	2014-2015	2015-2016	2014-2015	2015-2016
San Joaquin	58	36	1	0	93	77
Stanislaus	69	50	1	0	110	109
Merced	62	23	0	0	79	26
Madera	66	39	5	0	34	18
Fresno	74	65	6	0	100	87
Kings	68	59	7	0	13	13
Tulare	66	44	7	0	68	27
Kern	72	48	9	0	54	47
Sequoia National Park & Forest	6	0	0	0	0	0
Kern (Greater Frazier Park Area)	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>404</b>

