

VALLEY AIR NEWS



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Check Before You Burn season, just days away

The residential wood burning season runs from November 1 through the end of February each year. During that time, the Valley Air District issues a daily wood burning declaration for each of the Valley's eight counties.

During winter months, the largest source of particulate pollution comes from residential wood smoke (wood burning fireplaces, wood/pellet stoves and inserts), and is detrimental to public health.

Stringent, federal air quality standards and unique challenges in meteorology, topography and geography, require that the Valley Air District leaves no stone unturned when seeking control measures to reduce emissions from a wide variety of air pollution sources in the San Joaquin Valley.

Check Before You Burn is a critical component of the Air District's efforts to reduce winter time particulate matter pollution. The Valley fails to meet federal ambient air quality standards for fine particulate matter pollution (PM 2.5) and is required to adopt all feasible control strategies to reduce this harmful pollutant in the Valley.

Residents with no natural gas service or no means to heat their homes, other than wood burning, are exempt from indoor wood burning curtailments.

In an effort to protect public health and avoid exceeding the federal standard for fine particulate matter (PM2.5), residents are asked to follow the daily wood burning status, based on forecast air quality for each county.



NO RESTRICTIONS, BURNING DISCOURAGED is declared when conditions are favorable and PM2.5 concentrations are expected to remain below 20 micrograms per cubic meter. "No

restrictions, burning discouraged" allows for the use of all residential wood burning devices, including fireplaces, wood/pellet, stoves/inserts, chimineas and outdoor fire pits. This is the only declaration that allows the use of all such devices.

NO BURNING UNLESS REGISTERED

This curtailment is declared when PM2.5 concentrations are forecast to be greater than or equal to 20 micrograms per cubic meter but less than 65 micrograms per cubic meter. Only clean-burning devices, such as EPA Phase II certified wood/pellet heaters that have been registered with the Valley Air District by a Registered Wood Burning Heater Professional (RWBHP) may be used. Unless you have no natural gas service or other means to heat your home, in which case you are not subject to the rule.

NO BURNING FOR ALL

is declared when PM2.5 concentrations are expected to reach unhealthy levels, at or exceeding 65 micrograms per cubic meter. At this stage, no wood burning devices are allowed to be used in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, except where exempt.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of funding available through the Burn Cleaner Program and upgrade from a wood burning fireplace or older wood stove/insert to a cleaner wood or pellet burning device that can be registered and used much more frequently. An even better option is to use the Burn Cleaner Program and upgrade to a natural gas insert or stove.

Natural gas is the cleanest, most efficient way to heat your home and is exempt from wood burning declarations.

To learn more about the District's Wood Burning Program, visit our website at: www.valleyair.org/rule4901/.



Central Valley Summit

The Valley Air District invites industry professionals and concerned public to the Central Valley Summit for a conversation on finding clean, cost-effective alternatives to open burning of agricultural waste.

The Summit takes place Tuesday and Wednesday, November 7-8 at the Kearney Agricultural Extension in Parlier.

On the Agenda

- **Biomass Power Industry Demise**
Drought and tree mortality may create the need for more agricultural open burning
- **Meeting the PM 2.5 Standard**
Valley's Challenges in Meeting Federal air quality standards and the Impact of Open Ag Burning in the San Joaquin Valley
- **Industry Perspectives**
Opportunities and challenges for developing alternatives to open agricultural burning
- **Can the Biomass Industry be saved?**
Exploring the possibility and feasibility of saving this industry
- **Healthy Soils**
The role healthy soils play in helping to address ag waste disposal
- **New and Emerging Alternatives**
- **Funding Needs**
Finding funding sources to advance alternatives to open ag burning

Register today at: <http://valleyair.org/cvsummit/>

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