

VALLEY AIR NEWS

September 2018



Residential wood-burning season will start heating up

The first official day of fall is September 23. It's a good reminder that the sizzling days of summer will soon be replaced by cooler temperatures. The mercury drop in thermometers often means residents will start firing up their heaters and fireplaces to warm up their homes.

Residents with wood-burning fireplaces, stoves and inserts will need to pay extra attention starting November 1, when the Check Before You Burn program begins. Since 2003, the Valley Air District has declared and enforced wood-burning curtailments on days when local weather conditions are expected to prevent good particulate matter dispersion.

On declared "No Burn" days, residents are prohibited from burning any solid fuel, including wood, pellets and manufactured wood, from midnight to midnight. Violators will be fined. People who live in an area where there is no natural-gas service or use wood-burning because it is their only source of heat, are exempted.

Cleaner wood-burning devices such as EPA-certified stoves/inserts and pellet-fueled heaters can be registered with the Valley Air District, which will permit residents to use the registered devices on days announced as "No Burning Unless Registered." Registered devices need to be re-registered every three years to ensure they are properly maintained. To register a clean-burning device, visit www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration.

To upgrade to a cleaner burning device, residents can apply for incentives from the District's Burn Cleaner program to help with the cost. Depending upon income, applicants can receive incentives up to \$1,000 for standard applicants or up to \$2,500 for low-income. An additional \$500 is available to either applicant for the costs associated with upgrading to all natural gas rather than wood burning. To learn more about the program, find out which devices are eligible, view a list of participating retailers and apply, visit www.valleyair.org/burncleaner.



District seeks public comment on its latest 2018 PM2.5 plan

The Valley Air District has worked in collaboration with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for the last three years to develop an attainment strategy to meet three PM2.5 standards set by the federal Clean Air Act. With input and comments from several public workshops and Public Advisory Workgroup meetings, the District recently released its Draft 2018 PM2.5 plan and invites the public to review it online at www.valleyair.org/pmplans. All comments must be submitted by September 30 to airqualityplans@valleyair.org.

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