

Check Before You Burn!

The Air District issues wood-burning forecasts every day from Nov. 1 through the last day of February. These forecasts are in effect from midnight to midnight and are determined by county. You can find the forecast for your county here:

Check the Air District's website at www.valleyair.org/aqinfo/woodburnpage.htm
Call 1-800 SMOG INFO (1-800-766-4463)

Many local TV weather reporters include the wood-burning forecast on their nightly newscasts, and it is also available in newspapers throughout the Valley. But it is your responsibility to find out!

Fines and penalties

Because wood burning is such a serious health matter, if there is a prohibition in your county and you burn anyway, you may face a fine. Fines also will be assessed higher if it is not your first offense.

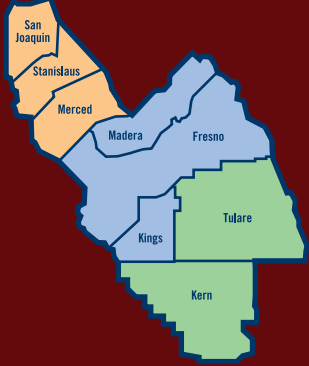
Please be a good neighbor!

Your family and neighbors are depending on you to understand and practice Check Before You Burn. Our collective health depends on it.



For more information about Check Before You Burn, please visit www.valleyair.org or call a District office.

For more information on Healthy Air Living, visit www.valleyair.org or call the nearest District office.



Northern Region

Serving San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced counties
4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto, CA 95356-9322
Tel: 209-557-6400 FAX: 209-557-6475

Central Region (Main Office)

Serving Madera, Fresno and Kings counties
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726-0244
Tel: 559-230-6000 FAX: 559-230-6061

Southern Region

Serving Tulare and Valley air basin portions of Kern counties
34946 Flyover Court, Bakersfield, CA 93308
Tel: 661-392-5500 FAX: 661-392-5585



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



HEALTHY AIR LIVING™



This winter, live a healthy air life!

INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS ABOUT THE AIR DISTRICT'S FIREPLACE RULE

CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN!

This winter, live a Healthy Air Life!

Healthy Air Living is not just a summertime program. In fact, during winter, the Valley has some of its most urgent air-quality challenges.

Did you know if you can make one change in winter, it can have a great effect on our Valley's air quality? That change can be reducing the contribution your wood-burning stove or fireplace makes to our winter pollution. By limiting when you burn and making the choice to burn cleaner when you do burn, you can help improve the Valley's winter air quality.

In winter, smoke from the fireplaces and wood stoves of homes across the Valley puts dangerous substances into the air, including particulate matter (PM), carbon monoxide, formaldehyde and substances that can cause cancer.

On a winter day when wood burning is active throughout the Valley, as much as 24 tons of harmful material go into our air. These substances can linger for days in the Valley's cold, still air, making life miserable for all of us. This can have serious consequences for your health, including lung disease. Some people in our communities are even more vulnerable to these effects, including children and people with existing respiratory problems or heart disease.

In order to better protect the health of the Valley's residents, the Valley Air District is declaring "wood burning prohibited" days for residential wood burning at lower levels of pollution than in previous years. This will result in more days each winter when burning solid fuel at home – whether in a fireplace, wood stove, pellet stove or wood-burning insert – will not be allowed.

Recent studies have revealed that smoke from burning wood can affect your health at much lower levels than previously thought. So from now on, the Air District will declare a prohibition on residential wood burning before air quality deteriorates to the unhealthiest levels.

How do I burn cleanly?

The Air District will never encourage you to burn. But if you must burn and it is not a "prohibited" day, always use the cleanest fuel possible when lighting a fire at home. The best way to use your fireplace is to have a gas unit or gas logs installed. Newer devices such as EPA Phase II certified stoves and inserts, or pellet stoves are also a great way to burn more cleanly. If you don't have gas and must burn wood, it is important that you use manufactured wood logs such as Duraflame or dry, seasoned wood such as Hot Wood. Also, harder woods, such as oak, burn more cleanly than softer woods, such as pine.

The Air District offers grants to assist residents in upgrading to a cleaner wood or gas insert or heater. Check the Air District's website www.valleyair.org for information on the Burn Cleaner program.

This year adhering to the wood-burning regulation and helping to improve winter air quality is easy. There are now just two kinds of wood-burning forecasts:

"If you must burn, Burn Cleanly" and "Wood Burning Prohibited."



A prohibition applies to any indoor or outdoor device which burns solid fuel such as wood, wood pellets or manufactured wood logs. This includes open hearth fireplaces, EPA certified stoves and inserts, pellet stoves, and outdoor chimineas and fire pits.

You are exempt from prohibitions if burning solid fuel such as wood is the only way you can heat your home, or if you do not have access to natural-gas service at your home. Propane tanks are not considered natural gas under this regulation.

Remember: Burning trash is NEVER allowed!

