

# News Release

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For Immediate Release



**San Joaquin Valley**  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

**TO:**  
**Local News Sections**

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## **Fifth Check Before You Burn season ends** **Number of restrictions down in some counties**

*Fresno, CA* – A dramatic 50 percent reduction in the number of wood-burning curtailment days in Fresno County marked the fifth year of the Valley Air District's "Check Before You Burn" program.

The 2007-08 season ended Friday, Feb. 29. The annual program to reduce wintertime air pollution by restricting residential wood burning runs each year from Nov. 1 through the end of February.

This year, Fresno County had half the wood-burning prohibition declarations of last season. And in Stanislaus County, just one curtailment day was declared, compared to nine last season.

"We applaud the Valley's residents and businesses for understanding the problem of wintertime air pollution and taking steps to minimize it," said Seyed Sadredin, the district's executive director.

Kern County had 12 days when lighting wood-burning fireplaces or stoves was prohibited, compared to eight in 2006-07. Kings County had four prohibited days, compared with two in 2006-07, and Tulare County recorded four days of fireplace and woodstove prohibitions, compared to three last year.

Madera had three prohibitions this year, and Merced and San Joaquin counties each had zero.

Wood-burning fireplaces and woodstoves can generate up to one-third of all particulate matter pollution on unhealthy air days in the winter (151 and above on the Air Quality Index). Check Before You Burn prohibits burning solid fuel on those days. Wood burning is discouraged when air quality is projected to be unhealthy for sensitive groups (101-150 on the AQI).

When wood burning is prohibited, violators may receive a Notice of Violation and be subject to fines beginning at \$50.

The restrictions on residential wood burning do not apply to natural gas or propane devices; homes and businesses in areas with no natural-gas service; homes and businesses at elevations of 3,000 feet or higher; and homes in which no other heating device exists and wood-burning is the sole source of heat.

The Air District also is assisting residents again this year in changing out their old, polluting wood-burning stoves and inserts with sizeable discounts toward the purchase of new, cleaner-burning gas units.

Through the Burn Cleaner program, sponsored by the District and Operation Clean Air, residents may receive a voucher good for \$350 off new units from participating retailers. Voucher applications are available in District offices or online at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org). The deadline to apply is Wed., April 30, 2008 or until funds are expended, on a first-come, first-served basis. The District expects to change out 300 old devices.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and San Joaquin Valley air basin portions of Kern Counties. For more information, visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org). Or, call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.

<b>County</b>	<b>Mandatory Curtailments (Wood-Burning Prohibited) 2007-08 season ['06-07]</b>	<b>Notices of Violation (NOVs)</b>	<b>Voluntary Curtailments (Wood-Burning Discouraged)</b>
<b>Fresno</b>	6 [12]	40 [101]	34 [48]
<b>Kern (Valley only)</b>	12 [8]	13 [23]	30 [50]
<b>Kings</b>	4 [2]	0 [0]	15 [27]
<b>Madera</b>	3 [2]	17 [4]	9 [33]
<b>Merced</b>	0 [2]	0 [5]	6 [36]
<b>San Joaquin</b>	0 [1]	0 [9]	6 [22]
<b>Stanislaus</b>	1 [9]	16 [60]	6 [33]
<b>Tulare</b>	4 [3]	1 [1]	28 [42]

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