

For immediate release 7-23-15

Attn: Local news, and assignment editors

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Qualified Hearth Professionals needed for wood burning rule

District opens recruitment for independent wood burning heater professionals

The San Joaquin Valley Air District will hold a free training workshop on July 28 for enterprising individuals interested in being placed on the District's list of Registered Wood Burning Heater Professionals (RWBHP).

In accordance with recent amendments to Rule 4901, Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters, also known as "Check Before You Burn," Valley residents planning to use clean-burning wood and pellet-fueled devices this winter need to register their devices with the Air District. Verification by a RWBHP with appropriate credentials will be necessary to complete the registration process.

Residents who own EPA Phase II certified wood burning and pellet-fueled stoves and inserts will contact RWBHPs from a list posted on the Valley Air District's website. The RWBHPs will inspect and verify that the device is certified and in good working condition. Once approved, registration of these devices allows the resident to burn during the period from November 1 through the end of February, when the daily wood burning status for their county is "No Burning Unless Registered."

During the training workshop, District staff will explain the process for becoming a RWBHP; outlining the requirements, experience and certifications that may be necessary and the specific duties to be performed when inspecting and verifying residential wood burning devices for Valley residents.

"The Air District is helping boost the local economy by creating a pool of professionals that will provide a necessary service for Valley residents who are helping improve our air by investing in clean-burning devices," said Seyed Sadredin, air pollution control officer. "We want to make sure that an adequate number of registered heater professionals are available to the community so that residents will be able to use their devices when they need to."

This training workshop is open to all interested individuals with one of the following professional certifications:

- Fireplace Investigation Research and Education (F.I.R.E.) Certified Inspector, or
- Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA) certification, or
- National Fireplace Institute (NFI) certification.

Alternatively, the training is appropriate for individuals who have three years of experience in the hearth industry installing, repairing or servicing these types of devices, including but not limited to:

- Hearth retailers
- Chimney sweeps
- Wood and pellet stove installers
- Licensed construction contractors with documented experience in the hearth industry

The training workshop will be video teleconferenced between all three regional offices of the Valley Air District in Modesto, Fresno and Bakersfield, Tuesday, July 28 at 5:30 PM. For more information, visit www.valleyair.org/rule4901 or call a District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-392-5500).

The District has also partnered with the National Fireplace Institute to conduct a training August 13-14 in each District office. Completion of the course will provide the necessary credentials to become a RWBHP. Visit http://nficertified.org/pages_industry/reviewLocations.cfm?affil=Pacific for information.

— NOW —
RECRUITING!

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is recruiting

Registered Wood Burning Heater Professionals (RWBHP)

Needed to verify EPA certified wood and pellet stoves throughout the San Joaquin Valley

Training workshop will be held on
Tuesday, July 28 at 5:30 pm

Workshop will explain duties of RWBHP's who will assist the District in the registration process of clean, wood-burning devices for Valley residents



Attend the training workshop, at any District office *(no RSVP necessary)*

Modesto

4800 Enterprise Way
Modesto, CA 95356

Fresno

1990 E Gettysburg Ave
Fresno, CA 93726

Bakersfield

34946 Flyover Court
Bakersfield, CA 93308

What to expect at training workshop:

- » Discussion about what type of wood burning heating devices are eligible for registration (*EPA Phase II certified, or an EPA exempt pellet stove*)
- » Training on how to use the District's RWBHP online portal to enter resident and device information
- » How to fully process a registration from inspecting the device through printing out the registration (*must be done at each residence*)

To qualify as a RWBHP, you must:

- » Attend a District training workshop (*future dates to be scheduled based on interest*)
- » Complete an application
- » Provide one of the following:
 - FIRE, CSIA, or NFI Certification*
 - *Individuals without a certification may qualify by providing sufficient documentation, including but not limited to: work experience, including maintenance, and cleaning activities on devices*

* The National Fireplace Institute will be conducting NFI training August 13-14 in Fresno, Modesto and Bakersfield.
To learn more, visit: http://nficertified.org/pages_industry/reviewLocations.cfm?affil=Pacific
Registration deadline is 7/28/15.

More information is available by calling **559-230-6000** or visiting **www.valleyair.org/rule4901**