

For immediate release 11-9-16

Attn: Local news, weather and assignment editors

Media Contacts

Heather Heinks (559) 994-7591

Jaime Holt (559) 309-3336

Anthony Presto (209) 557-6472

Air officials issue first Valley-wide fireplace prohibition of season

Deteriorating air quality means only registered wood burning devices can be used

A Check Before You Burn **No Burning Unless Registered** wood-burning curtailment is in effect for **Thursday, Nov. 10th** in all San Joaquin Valley air basin counties (**San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley air basin portion of Kern counties**). It is the first curtailment of the season for San Joaquin county.

The daylong mandatory curtailment that prohibits the use of unregistered devices because of poor air quality is in place through midnight **Thursday**. The curtailment applies to burning wood and pellets in unregistered residential stoves and inserts as well as burning wood, pellets, manufactured fire logs in fireplaces or outdoor burning devices such as fire pits and chimeneas.

The daily wood burning status is issued by county and residents can visit www.valleyair.org/CBYB daily to see which of these three possible declarations is in place for their county:



No Burning curtailment: No one can burn at their residence.



No Burning Unless Registered curtailment: Residents must register their emission-compliant wood-burning device with the District by visiting www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration in order to use their device during this declaration.



No Restrictions, Burning Discouraged: If burning is absolutely necessary, residents should use manufactured logs, dry/seasoned wood, pellets or a clean-burning device.

Check Before You Burn runs each winter from November through February and reduces wintertime particulate pollution (PM) by restricting the use of wood-burning devices. Residential wood burning is the single largest source of harmful PM during winter and can pump 17 tons of PM into Valley skies daily. PM exacerbates respiratory illness, such as asthma, and causes lung infections and bronchitis.

There are two exceptions to wood-burning prohibitions: If the residence does not have access to natural-gas service, even if propane is used; or if burning solid fuel is the sole source of heat for the residence. Prohibition violations are subject to fines.

To find out if you can register your device with the Valley Air District visit www.valleyair.org/cbybregistration. The wood-burning status is also available by calling 1-800 SMOG INFO (766-4463), by subscribing to the daily email at www.valleyair.org/lists/list.htm, or by downloading "Valley Air" at the iPhone App Store.