

News Release

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For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

TO:
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Woodstove change-out incentive applications end this week

More than 400 discounts issued

Fresno, CA – Valley residents have until Thursday to apply for financial assistance in upgrading older, wood-burning fireplaces or woodstoves to cleaner-burning units.

The Burn Cleaner program, sponsored by the Valley Air District and Operation Clean Air, offers Valley residents up to \$350 to purchase and install cleaner-burning fireplace inserts and heating stoves. Additional discounts may be available from participating retailers.

The District has issued more than 400 vouchers and allocated about \$125,000 in incentive funds.

“Fireplaces and old woodstoves are inefficient, expensive heaters while new inserts and stoves heat more and pollute much less,” said Jaime Holt, Public Information Administrator for the Air District. “Gas fireplaces are also a good choice to replace a wood fireplace. We hope these financial incentives will help people move up to cleaner burning heaters that can reduce air pollution in the Valley.”

To participate, residents fill out a voucher application available at District offices or on the website (www.valleyair.org) and return it to the District with a recent copy of a utility bill. The District will then issue a voucher, which consumers can take to a participating retailer. The Burn Cleaner incentive is applied at the time of purchase.

Vouchers are good for four weeks from the date of issue.

The incentive program is one of several Air District strategies for cutting chimney smoke and meeting tougher government limits on particle pollution. On winter days when air quality is poor, residential wood burning can cause up to one-third of all PM10 (particulate matter 10 microns and smaller) emissions in the Valley’s urban areas.

Open-hearth, masonry fireplaces and older wood-burning devices manufactured before 1990 can produce more than 50 grams of particulates per hour. The EPA-certified wood-burning

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devices sold today emit about 6 grams of particulates per hour. Pellet stoves provide less than one gram per hour of particulate emissions.

For more information, visit www.valleyair.org. Or, call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.

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