

Letter to the Fresno Bee Wed., Jan. 18, 2012

Please don't burn

As a physician, thanks to all who have not lit fires in their fireplaces or inserts in the past six weeks. Our Valley has had a string of unhealthy air days, and I see it in the asthma visits to my office and patients with lung disease struggling to breathe. The soot and fine particles put into the air by fires would only make the air quality much worse.

I love the heat from my insert, and missed the special warmth of the hearth over the holidays. I can even feel a little virtuous when I use a renewable energy source, but the health cost to everyone on these bad air days is only too real.

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