

VALLEY AIR NEWS

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There's more to wood burning than just "Check Before You Burn"

Most Valley residents associate the Air District's residential wood burning rule (Rule 4901, Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters) solely with wintertime fireplace and wood/pellet stove use and the daily "Check Before You Burn" program.

Rule 4901's efforts to reduce fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) emissions in the San Joaquin Valley also incorporate elements not as widely known by Valley residents, but still critical to the District's overall goal of protecting public health. The rule also reduces PM 2.5 emissions by limiting the number of wood burning devices placed in new residential developments and reducing the number of existing wood burning devices via the home sales process.

Anyone planning to build a new home or remodel an existing home in the Valley should be familiar with the residential development portion of Rule 4901. Density requirements within the rule limit new development to no more than one wood-burning device per home and no more than two per acre (as shown in the chart below).

Rule 4901 also impacts the sale of

existing homes. The requirements state that older, non-certified wood stoves and inserts must be removed from a home or rendered permanently inoperable before the home is sold or ownership is transferred.

Devices that can remain in a home being sold or transferred include:

- Open-hearth fireplaces
- EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Phase II certified stoves or inserts
- Pellet-fueled stoves or inserts
- Stoves and inserts fueled exclusively by natural gas or propane.

The selling party is responsible for removing or rendering permanently inoperable any wood-burning heater or fireplace insert that does not meet July 1990 EPA Phase II certification standards. If your stove needs to be removed, contact a chimney sweep or hearth products dealer for assistance and disposal.

A home seller whose property includes any type of wood-burning stove or insert must complete a Wood Burning Heater Statement of Compliance to avoid future liability.

These forms are available at www.valleyair.org/Rule4901.



Unlike the Check Before You Burn Program, which exempts homes with no access to natural gas, or where wood burning is the sole source of heat, there are no exemptions to these portions of Rule 4901. Check Before You Burn exemptions also do not include *outdoor* burning devices such as burn pits, chimeneas and outdoor fireplaces.

The Valley Air District also offers grant funding through its Burn Cleaner Program, helping Valley residents upgrade their old, high polluting devices to cleaner burning wood, pellet and natural gas devices.

Residents may receive \$1,000 toward a new, cleaner-burning EPA certified stove, wood burning insert or natural gas device. An additional \$500 is available to cover installation costs for natural gas devices. Low income residents receive \$2,500 off the cost of their upgrade and are also eligible for an additional \$500 toward installation of a natural gas insert.

Homes are not eligible for the Burn Cleaner Program while for sale.

For more information on all District rules and grant programs, visit www.valleyair.org or contact the nearest District office (Fresno, 559-230-6000; Modesto, 209-557-6400; Bakersfield, 661-392-5500).

DENSITY RATIO OF PROJECT	2 OR FEWER HOMES PER ACRE	MORE THAN 2 HOMES PER ACRE
OPEN-HEARTH FIREPLACE ALLOWED	YES	NO
EPA PHASE II-CERTIFIED WOOD BURNING HEATER	YES	YES
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF WOOD BURNING DEVICES ALLOWED	1 PER HOME	1 PER HOME, BUT ONLY 2 PER ACRE



CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN