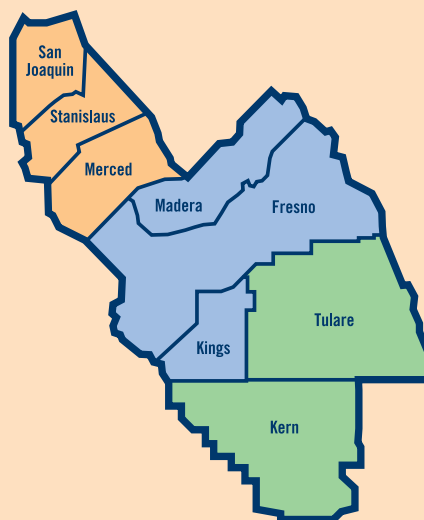


## AIR QUALITY IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Despite years of improvements, the San Joaquin Valley air basin fails to meet federal and state health-based, air-quality standards. Two pollutants in particular can be harmful to your health. Ozone is generated during hot, summer days when emissions from cars, trucks and other mobile sources cook in sunlight and heat to form smog. Particulate matter occurs primarily during fall and winter months, when emissions increase and strong inversion layers prevent the particles from dispersing, or moving away.

Particulate matter 10 microns and smaller (PM10) is a harmful mix of soot, smoke, chemicals, dust, salts, dirt, metals and toxins. PM10 also includes the group of even smaller particles known as PM2.5. PM10 is tiny – roughly one-seventh the width of a strand of human hair. But these microscopic particles are dangerous. They can bypass the body's natural defenses and lodge deep in the lungs. Exposure to high concentrations of particulates can trigger heart attacks, increase lung cancer risk, aggravate conditions such as asthma and bronchitis, and reduce lung function.

Call 1-877 HAZ BURN / 1-877-429-2876  
for Daily Hazard-Reduction Burn Information



### Northern Region

*Serving San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced counties*

4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto, CA 95356-8718

Tel: 209-557-6400 FAX: 209-557-6475

Complaint Line: 1-800-281-7003

### Central Region (Main Office)

*Serving Madera, Fresno and Kings counties*

1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726-0244

Tel: 559-230-6000 FAX: 559-230-6061

Complaint Line: 1-800-870-1037

### Southern Region

*Serving Tulare and Valley air basin portions of Kern counties*

34946 Flyover Court, Bakersfield, CA 93308-9725

Tel: 661-392-5500 FAX: 661-392-5585

Complaint Line: 1-800-926-5550



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# HAZARD REDUCTION BURNING

*Reducing fire danger on foothill  
and mountain properties*



**San Joaquin Valley**  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT.

1-800 SMOG INFO  
[www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org)

## Fire Hazard Reduction

In an effort to maintain foothill and mountain properties of the San Joaquin Valley air basin in a fire-safe condition, Section 4291 of the California Public Resources Code requires the removal of vegetation that can transmit fire from the natural growth to a building or structure. To comply with this requirement, local fire protection agencies require:

- The clearance of flammable vegetation from within 100 feet of buildings or more as required by the local fire protection agency.
- The removal of branches from within 10 feet of a chimney.
- The removal of all flammable vegetation from rooftops, including dry leaves and pine needles.

## Hazard Reduction Burning

The code does not require vegetation to be disposed of by open burning. However, if you choose to burn, you may only burn the natural vegetation that has been removed to comply with PRC 4291. The Air District strongly encourages you to consider other disposal alternatives, especially in or near smoke-sensitive populated areas. Alternatives include chipping, mulching, composting or recycling through your local landfill or disposal service.

## Burn Permits Required

Burn permits are required for Hazard Reduction Burning, both by the District and by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire). The District has partnered with Cal Fire to streamline the permitting process for Hazard Reduction Burning. Permits are available online from the Cal Fire Burn Permitting Application at [burnpermit.fire.ca.gov](http://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov). Permits issued for locations within the Valley Air District's jurisdiction will include both Cal Fire and District permit requirements. Please read and understand the conditions when accepting a burn permit.

## Don't Allow Materials to Smolder

**A smoldering burn releases twice the emissions and is a rule violation!** Do not burn material that is wet or damp, as this can cause excessive smoke. Creating excessive smoke is prohibited and will result in penalties. The Air District encourages you to seek alternatives to burning whenever possible.

## Prohibited Materials

Air District Rule 4106 (Prescribed Burning and Hazard Reduction Burning) prohibits burning the following materials:

- Household garbage.
- Ornamental shrubbery, lawn clippings, rose prunings and weeds.
- Vegetable garden residue and family orchard prunings.
- Lumber, plywood, particle board and other manufactured wood products.
- Painted or stained wood.
- Christmas trees.
- Roofing materials.
- Construction or demolition debris.
- Furniture and mattresses.
- Plastics.
- Tires and other rubber products.
- Paints, solvents and their containers.
- Petroleum products, including waste oil, gasoline and diesel fuel.
- Electric wire or metal for salvage.
- Animal carcasses, manure, hay and animal bedding materials.
- Vegetation transported from one property to another.
- Anything processed, manufactured or treated.



Burning anything in a burn barrel is illegal!

## Call for Burn Authorization

Hazard reduction burning is permitted only when meteorological conditions are good for smoke dispersal. In addition, local fire protection agencies may impose fire restrictions and prohibit open burning due to elevated risks of fire danger. Before you light a fire, call 1-877-429-2876 (1-877-HAZ BURN) or visit [valleyair.org/hazburn](http://valleyair.org/hazburn) for daily burn information.

## Please Observe the Following Guidelines When Preparing to Burn

- Provide adequate clearance around the fire to avoid its escape.
- Burn only when authorized. Call 1-877-429-2876.
- Burn only natural vegetation removed while maintaining a fire-safe area.
- Make sure that the material has been allowed to dry.
- Do not use any flammable liquid (such as gasoline or diesel fuel) to ignite a fire.
- Be sure the fire does not cause excessive smoke.
- Do not burn on windy days.
- Attend the burn at all times until extinguished.
- Follow the instructions on the burn permit.

Creating a nuisance could result in a violation subject to penalties. To file a complaint for excessive smoke or illegal burning, call the Air District at 1-800-870-1037 or visit [valleyair.org/complaints](http://valleyair.org/complaints).

**In the event of the threat of a fire escaping control, immediately contact the local fire protection agency.**

If a fire escapes your control, you may be held liable for all fire suppression costs and for any property damage caused by the fire. Criminal charges may also apply in certain cases. For fire safety information, contact your local fire protection agency or the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.