

For immediate release 3/01/16

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Check Before You Burn season ends *Valley saw fewer restrictions this winter*

The 13th winter of the residential wood-burning program ended with record improvement in air quality.

Check Before You Burn, the program that minimizes the build-up of harmful fine particle pollution, runs each winter from November through February. Each day during this period, a wood-burning declaration is issued for every county in the air basin that determines what, if any, residential wood-burning devices may be used. Last winter, the regulation was amended to allow users of EPA Phase II-certified clean wood-burning devices to register them with the District and use them more frequently than they were allowed in past winters.

“We are moving in the right direction thanks to the cooperation of Valley residents and their investments in cleaner devices,” said Seyed Sadredin, the District’s executive director and air pollution control officer. “Together with the increased funding for the Burn Cleaner program, which grants money for the purchase of cleaner devices, Check Before You Burn has had a very positive effect on winter air quality in the Valley.”

While registered devices could be used more often, the Valley saw significant improvements this winter and the “No Burning For All” curtailment that prohibits both registered and non-registered devices from burning when PM 2.5 levels become critically unhealthy, was not needed. Comparatively, last winter, there were a total of 36 “No Burning For All” curtailments throughout the air basin. Additionally, there were far fewer days during which the fine-particle level exceeded the federal health standard of 35 micrograms per cubic meter.

Valley residents wanting to switch out older wood-burning devices for a cleaner model can still take advantage of the District’s Burn Cleaner grants which provide \$1,000 for certified wood, pellet inserts, freestanding stoves or natural gas inserts or \$2,500 for eligible low-income applicants for all devices. An additional \$500 is available to all applicants for the installation costs on a natural gas device. Visit www.valleyair.org/burncleaner for program guidelines.

Additionally, March through October, is a great time to get clean burning devices registered ahead of next year’s wood burning season. Visit www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration for details.

Beginning today, the District will no longer issue a daily residential wood burning status for each county. While no formal burning restrictions will be in place until November 1, 2016, the District discourages residential wood burning.

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County	No Burning Unless Registered		No Burning for All		Notices of Violation*	
	2014-2015	2015-2016	2014-2015	2015-2016	2014-2015	2015-2016
San Joaquin	58	36	1	0	93	77
Stanislaus	69	50	1	0	110	109
Merced	62	23	0	0	79	26
Madera	66	39	5	0	34	18
Fresno	74	65	6	0	100	87
Kings	68	59	7	0	13	13
Tulare	66	44	7	0	68	27
Kern	72	48	9	0	54	47
Sequoia National Park & Forest	6	0	0	0	0	0
Kern (Greater Frazier Park Area)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals:	542	364	36	0	551	404

*Violations of wood-burning curtailments can result in notices of violation.