

**For immediate release 11-4-16**

**Attn: Local news, weather and assignment editors**

**Media Contacts**

Heather Heinks (559) 994-7591

Jaime Holt (559) 309-3336

Anthony Presto (209) 557-6402

## **Air officials issue fireplace prohibitions for nearly all Valley counties**

*Including first prohibitions of the season for Stanislaus, Merced and Madera counties*

Check Before You Burn **No Burning Unless Registered** wood-burning curtailment is in effect for **Saturday Nov. 5** in **Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley portion of Kern Counties**. It is the first curtailment of the season for Stanislaus, Merced and Madera counties.

The daylong mandatory curtailment that prohibits the use of unregistered devices because of poor air quality is in place through midnight **Saturday**. The curtailment applies to burning wood and pellets in unregistered residential stoves and inserts as well as burning wood, pellets, manufactured fire logs in fireplaces or outdoor burning devices such as fire pits and chimineas.

The daily wood burning status is issued by county and residents can visit [www.valleyair.org/CBYB](http://www.valleyair.org/CBYB) daily to see which of these three possible declarations is in place for their county:



No Burning curtailment: No one can burn at their residence.



No Burning Unless Registered curtailment: Residents must register their emission-compliant wood-burning device with the District by visiting [www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration](http://www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration) in order to use their device



No Restrictions, Burning Discouraged: If burning is absolutely necessary, residents should use manufactured logs, dry/seasoned wood, pellets or a clean-burning device.

Check Before You Burn runs each winter from November through February and reduces wintertime particulate pollution (PM) by restricting the use of wood-burning devices. Residential wood burning is the single largest source of harmful PM during winter and can pump 17 tons of PM into Valley skies daily. PM exacerbates respiratory illness, such as asthma, and causes lung infections and bronchitis.

There are two exceptions to wood-burning prohibitions: If the residence does not have access to natural-gas service, even if propane is used; or if burning solid fuel is the sole source of heat for the residence. Prohibition violations are subject to fines.

To find out if you can register your device with the Valley Air District visit [www.valleyair.org/cbybregistration](http://www.valleyair.org/cbybregistration). The wood-burning status is also available by calling 1-800 SMOG INFO (766-4463), by subscribing to the daily email at [www.valleyair.org/lists/list.htm](http://www.valleyair.org/lists/list.htm), or by downloading "Valley Air" at the iPhone App Store.