

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First fireplace-use ban issued for season

Poor air quality prohibits wood burning in Kern, Kings and Tulare counties

Fresno – The season’s first fireplace- and woodstove-use ban has been issued for Kern (Valley air basin portion), Kings and Tulare counties for Saturday, Nov. 3 because of expected poor air quality. The daylong mandatory curtailment will be in effect from midnight Friday through at least midnight Saturday.

The curtailment applies to burning wood, pellets and manufactured firelogs and is the first ban of the season. The Check Before You Burn season, which runs from Nov. 1 through Feb. 29, aims to reduce fall and wintertime air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley through mandatory curtailments that are issued county by county when air quality is expected to be poor.

For Kern (Valley air basin portion), Kings and Tulare counties, air quality is expected to be 152 on the Air Quality Index, rendering it unhealthy. Violators may be fined. Fines for first-time violations start at \$50.

Exemptions to the mandatory curtailment include residences with no access to natural gas; residences with no other source of heat; and residences above 3,000 feet in elevation.

A voluntary request for curtailment has also been issued for Fresno County, where the air quality is expected to be unhealthy for sensitive groups. At such times, the Air District requests that people who have other sources of heat refrain from using wood-burning devices unless they are stoves and inserts that meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards set in 1990; are pellet-fueled; or use manufactured firelogs.

Sunday’s wood-burning status will be available by 4 p.m. Saturday. It is provided in English and Spanish toll-free at 1-800 SMOG INFO (1-800-766-4463) and at www.valleyair.org. Updates in Hmong are available at 1-877-344-1212. The status is also provided as a public service by many news outlets.

When wood burning is allowed, it should be done as cleanly as possible by using dry, seasoned wood. And remember: Burning trash is NEVER allowed.

For more information, visit www.valleyair.org or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400; Fresno (559) 230-6000; or Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.