



# Media Advisory

12/13/07

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Wood burning prohibition issued for Stanislaus County

Season's first "no burn" day declared for Valley's northern region

**Dec. 13** - The season's first residential wood burning ban for the San Joaquin Valley's northern region has been issued for Stanislaus County, Friday, December 14, because of expected poor air quality. The daylong mandatory curtailment will be in effect from midnight Thursday through at least midnight Friday.

Wood burning is also prohibited for Madera and Fresno counties.

The curtailment applies to burning wood, pellets and manufactured firelogs. 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 Stanislaus County air quality is expected to be 153 on the Air Quality Index. Madera and Fresno counties are forecast to have an AQI rating of 152. Any score above 150 on the AQI is considered unhealthy for the general public.

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 Merced, Kings, Tulare and Kern counties, 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.

The daily wood burning status will be available by 4 P.M. It is provided in English and Spanish toll-free at 1-800 SMOG INFO (1-800-766-4463) and at [www.valleyair.org](http://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](http://www.valleyair.org) or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400; Fresno (559) 230-6000; or Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.

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