

## New changes to Valley Air District’s Rule 4901 and what it means for the Burn Cleaner Program

By Cassandra Melching

The Bakersfield Californian, Monday, October 21, 2019

Smoke from residential wood burning — especially traditional open-hearth fireplaces and old wood stoves — puts unhealthy emissions into the air. As part of the Valley Air District’s efforts to reduce particulate-matter pollution in the valley, the Burn Cleaner Program was created.

This program offers incentives to residents throughout the San Joaquin Valley, including in the Valley Air Basin portion of Kern County. Recent amendments to the Valley Air District’s Rule 4901 require stricter residential wood-burning curtailments for the three counties with the biggest air pollution challenges. These “hot spot” areas are the counties of Madera, Fresno and the Valley Air Basin Portion of Kern. Due to the stricter curtailment thresholds and to encourage participation in Burn Cleaner, enhanced incentives will be provided for participants replacing their old wood-burning devices in those counties. Participants who have residential property in the remaining counties within the Valley Air Basin, including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Kings and Tulare, are eligible for standard incentives. See graphics.

Incentive Type	Location of Old Device	Eligible New Device Type	Incentive Level
Hot Spot Incentives	Madera, Fresno, or the Valley Air Basin portion of Kern County <b>AND</b> in a residential property that has access to piped natural gas	Natural Gas Insert/Freestanding Stove	Up to \$2,500* for unit + \$500 for eligible installation costs
		Electric Heat Pump	Up to \$4,000*
Standard Incentives	San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Kings, or Tulare County	Certified wood insert/freestanding stove	Up to \$1,000
		Certified pellet insert/freestanding stove	Up to \$1,000
	<b>OR</b> Madera, Fresno, or the Valley Air Basin portion of Kern County <b>AND</b> in a residential property that <b>does not</b> have access to piped natural gas	Natural Gas insert/freestanding stove	Up to \$1,000 for unit + \$500 for eligible installation costs
		Electric Heat Pump	Up to \$1,500
		Low-income	Additional \$1,500 for qualified applicants

\*Regardless of income

### Hot Spot Counties

If the old device is located in the County of Madera, Fresno, or the Valley Air Basin of Kern, the eligibility of new devices are limited to the following:

Location of Old Device	Old Device Type	New Device Type		
		Certified Wood/Pellet <i>Insert, Freestanding Stove, or Fireplace</i>	Natural Gas/Propane <i>Insert, Freestanding Stove, or Fireplace</i>	Electric Heat Pump
Areas with Access to Natural Gas	Open Hearth Wood-burning Fireplace	Not Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
	Non-Certified Wood/Pellet <i>Insert or Freestanding Stove</i>	Not Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
	Certified Wood/Pellet <i>Insert or Freestanding Stove</i>	Not Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
	Natural Gas/Propane <i>Insert, Freestanding Stove, Logs, or Fireplace</i>	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible
	Electric <i>Insert or Freestanding/Wall-mounted Fireplace</i>	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible
Areas without Access to Natural Gas	Open Hearth Wood-burning Fireplace	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
	Non-Certified Wood/Pellet <i>Insert or Freestanding Stove</i>	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
	Certified Wood/Pellet <i>Insert or Freestanding Stove</i>	Not Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
	Natural Gas/Propane <i>Insert, Freestanding Stove, Logs, or Fireplace</i>	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible
	Electric <i>Insert or Freestanding/Wall-mounted Fireplace</i>	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible

To participate in this program, residents can apply online by visiting [www.valleyair.org/burncleaner](http://www.valleyair.org/burncleaner). All applicants must work with a participating retailer for the purchase and installation of their new device. Please note: New devices cannot be purchased until you receive a Burn Cleaner voucher from the Valley Air District. For additional details, contact program staff at 559-230-5800.

Funds for this program are on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Air pollution officials advise caution due to potential wind, dust

Bakersfield Californian, Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019

The potential for blowing dust as a result of gusty winds has prompted local air pollution officials to issue a health cautionary statement, effective Saturday evening through Sunday evening for several San Joaquin Valley counties, including Kern.

According to a news release from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, northwesterly onshore flow will strengthen through Sunday evening as the weather pattern over the region transitions from low pressure to high pressure. As a result, winds will increase across the San Joaquin Valley, especially in the northern and western portions of the valley.

The windy conditions will cause localized blowing dust in areas where soils are exceptionally dry and create unhealthy concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller, known as PM10.

Exposure to particulate pollution, the air district said, can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections.

Where conditions warrant, people with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of particulate exposure. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy exertion, depending on their local conditions.

For more information, visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) or call the local air district office at 392-5500.

## **Gusty winds cause health concerns for Valley residents with respiratory issues**

By Sheyenne Romero

Visalia Times-Delta, Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019

Gusty winds could cause problems for Valley residents with lung disease or asthma, air quality officials warn.

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District officials issued a health cautionary statement Saturday for San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern counties.

Northwesterly onshore flow will strengthen Saturday night through Sunday night as the weather pattern over the region transitions from low pressure to high pressure, stated Jennifer Ridgway, air quality specialist for San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

During this time, winds will increase across the San Joaquin Valley, especially in the northern and western portions of the Valley.

The windy conditions are expected to cause blowing dust in areas where soils are exceptionally dry, Ridgway said.

This could create "unhealthy concentrations" of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller (PM10).

Exposure to particulate pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections, according to air quality officials.

People with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of particulate exposure. Older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy exertion, depending on their local conditions.

For more information, visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) or call a District office in Fresno 230-6000.