

Pollution Control District calls emission reduction

Hanford Sentinel, Monday, November 1, 2021

The call has gone out to reduce the burning of wood to preventing air pollution during the winter in Kings County and the Central Valley at large.

The Pollution Control District urges all Valley residents to reduce harmful PM 2.5 (particulate matter 2.5 microns and smaller) concentrations across the region, which is more common during the cooler weather of the fall and winter seasons. Residential wood burning is one of the Valley's largest sources of wintertime PM 2.5 emissions and is shown to have a direct effect on neighborhood air quality, according to a release from the District. In addition, nitrogen oxide (NOx) from tailpipes can add to the wintertime pollution problem.

"Less frequent winter storms and an increase in wildfires in recent years has led to significant challenges in reducing particulate matter pollution in the San Joaquin Valley," said District Executive Director and Air Pollution Control Officer, Samir Sheikh. "Choosing not to use your wood burning fireplace or fire pit this winter is critical in our pollution reduction efforts and key to public health."

The winter season residential wood burning reduction program runs from Nov. 1 through the end of February every year, reducing PM 2.5 emissions from wood burning devices such as fireplaces, wood stoves, outdoor fire pits and chimneys. During that time, the District releases a daily, county-by-county wood burning declaration based on the air quality forecast. Burning trash or yard refuse is always prohibited.

Daily burn information is available by visiting www.valleyair.org/burnstatus, by calling 1-800-SMOG INFO (766-4463), or by downloading the free "Valley Air" app on a mobile device.

Check Before You Burn begins Nov. 1 in the Central Valley

By Justin Sacher

KSEE 24, Monday, Nov. 1, 2021

FRESNO COUNTY, Calif. (KSEE) – Air pollution can get bad this time of year in the Valley.

Still conditions and cooler temperatures help trap pollution near the ground, including fireplace smoke. Seasonal wood burning restrictions go into effect Valley-wide November 1.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has the authority to restrict wood burning in-home fireplaces to registered devices only or not allow it at all.

Through a time of year when temperature inversions in the Valley help trap pollutants like a fireplace at ground-level, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District restricts residential wood burning through their "Check before you burn" program.

Valley Air District outreach and communications manager Heather Heinks says, "We have reduced the amount of particulate matter in the winter season significantly — by tons of emission during that winter season. Because the public understands and has been checking before they burn with us and recognizing that when you create pollution in your home you are sharing that pollution with your neighbors in your neighborhood which means if they open their window they are breathing in that pollution. The ask is really to understand the impact on those around you when you light a fire."

Air quality monitoring data shows the restrictions are working.

Valley winters used to have more unhealthy days than good days.

The trend started to reverse in 2003 — that's when district wood burning restrictions went from voluntary to mandatory.

Rules were tightened again in 2008 and updated again in 2014 when a "registered devices only" category was added.

Heinks says, "The rule applies to outdoor burning as well which means if you have a fire in your backyard in a fire pit or chimenea that is using fuel as combustion and not propane or natural gas you are also subject to the rules."

The air district is offering thousands in incentives to those upgrading their wood-burning fireplace to natural gas. Information about the Burn Cleaner program is available at <https://www.valleyair.org/grants/apps/burncleaner/Home/>

San Joaquin Valley residents must check burn status before using woodburning fireplaces

by Kristi Gross, Katelyn Stark
Fox 40 News, Monday, Nov. 1, 2021

MODESTO, Calif. (KTXL) — As leaves fall and temperatures drop, millions of homeowners in the San Joaquin Valley will light up their woodburning fireplaces, sending wood smoke into the air.

Residential burning restrictions to protect air quality were recently put in place in the San Joaquin Valley, meaning homeowners will need to check their county's burn status before lighting their woodburning fireplaces.

Cassandra Melching with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District said, every winter, they see higher fine particle emissions and other air pollutants, primarily from residential woodburning fireplaces.

"We're surrounded by mountains, and it kind of tends to linger and doesn't have anywhere to go," Melching told FOX40.

People with indoor, woodburning fireplaces or outdoor pits will now need to check the air quality status to make sure they're allowed to burn.

There are three different statuses: burning discouraged, no burning unless registered and no burning for all.

"If anybody is found in violation, they will be issued a notice of violation, which is essentially a ticket, and have to pay a monetary fine for breaking the rule," Melching explained.

For days when burning is allowed, the APCD said, if you're going to use your fireplace, make sure you're burning only dry season firewood or fire logs.

"Anytime you burn wood, that smoke doesn't stay, you know, just in that vicinity. It has a tendency to drift off and it will affect your neighbors and your neighborhood," Melching said. "And it's just not impacting them, it drifts off and touches many different homes."

The rules don't apply to those with natural gas or electric fireplaces.

The APCD said they encourage everyone to move away from burning wood because of the impact it can have on some people's health.

"It's a really, really harmful pollutant. So if we can avoid that altogether, then, of course, that would be the best bet," Melching said.

Those who are interested in moving away from burning wood may be able to participate in the APCD's Burn Cleaner Program.

Valley Air District discourages wood-burning this season

By Anthony Wright
California News Times, Monday, Nov. 1, 2021

Kern County, CA (KERO) — November 1st, the beginning of winter, so it's time for a "check before burning" program.

Firewood fires bring high levels of particulate matter into our atmosphere. therefore, from November to the end of February San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control Area "Firewood burning situation in a house, "" There are no restrictions, but we do not recommend burning firewood "," Do not burn firewood unless you register "," Prohibit firewood for everyone "will advise residents.

Those who do not follow the guidance will be fined, but the aviation district said it was not a fine, but aimed at educating the general public. And in fact, they said this year they are asking the public not to burn firewood completely all year round.

can get More information online How to get a \$ 3,000 voucher to insert natural gas into a fireplace. You can also Request tax exemption Also Register a clean burning device.