

# VALLEY AIR NEWS

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District  
March 2011

## Check Before YOU Burn ends season with continued winter air quality improvement

The eighth season of an annual wintertime air quality program that limits dangerous airborne particulate matter concluded Feb. 28. Thanks to cooperation by Valley residents in complying with the regulation, wintertime air quality continued to improve.

Check Before You Burn runs from November through February each winter, and restricts the use of residential wood-burning devices when air quality deteriorates, in order to prevent the build-up of fine-particulate matter (PM2.5). During the season, wood-burning forecasts are issued daily, determining for individual Valley counties if residential wood burning is permitted. Tickets are issued for violations.

"This rule is one of our most important tools to keep the Valley's air during winter as clean as possible," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's executive director and air pollution control officer. "Our cleaner winter air quality benefits all of us."

During the 2010-11 season, the number of days that exceeded the federal health standard for fine-particulate pollution declined by 9 percent over the previous season.

PM2.5 has been linked to chronic lung disease, respiratory illness, heart attacks and premature death. Residential wood burning can put as much as 17 tons per day of this harmful matter into the eight-county air basin. Surveys have shown that 70 percent of fireplace use is for ambience rather than heating, although exemptions are available for residents who must burn solid fuel to heat their homes.

The chart below shows the number of mandatory curtailment days and notices of violation issued in each county for the 2010/2011 wood burning season.

County	Wood burning prohibitions 2010/11 season	Notices of violation
San Joaquin	7	9
Stanislaus	25	54
Merced	23	65
Madera	37	64
Fresno	44	174
Kings	36	16
Tulare	33	30
Kern (Valley portion)	40	36
Kern (Frazier Park)	0	0

For more information about Check Before You Burn and other Air District programs, visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) or call a regional office: in Fresno, 559-230-6000; in Bakersfield, 661-392-5500; and in Modesto, 209-557-6400.

## for reel Video contest 2011 What's Your CHANGE?

This year, the Healthy Air Living For Reel Video Contest asks "What's Your Change?"

Healthy Air Living is all about making small lifestyle changes to help air quality. Whether you carpool, ride your bike to school or work, or use an electric lawn mower, it's the little things that make a difference.

The Valley Air District invites all San Joaquin Valley teachers and students to produce a 30-second video that addresses the question: "What's Your Change?" You could win an iPad!

All video entries must be submitted on a DVD with an official entry form no later than 5pm, May 27, 2011. Send entries to: Outreach and Communications, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726. Get more information and entry forms at: [www.healthyairliving.com/upcoming-events/HAL-for-reel-video-contest.htm](http://www.healthyairliving.com/upcoming-events/HAL-for-reel-video-contest.htm).

**1st Place wins an iPad!!!**



## Cars clean up at Valley-wide Tune In & Tune Up events

Have you owned your vehicle at least six months? Is it a 1995 model year or older? Do you think it may not pass your next smog test?



If so, you're invited to participate in a free smog check event, hosted by the Valley Air District and Valley Clean Air Now (CAN). If your car or pickup doesn't pass, you're eligible to receive a repair voucher worth up to \$500.

Gross-polluting vehicles are a major source of smog, and the Valley Air District aims to ensure that the cost of maintenance doesn't prohibit Valley drivers from passing smog tests and driving clean.



Sixteen Tune In & Tune Up events are being held throughout the San Joaquin Valley this spring.

Check the Air District's website to find the one closest to you and get your car running clean.

For more information, visit: [www.valley-can.org](http://www.valley-can.org).