

VALLEY AIR NEWS

A monthly publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - October 2012



Check Before You Burn – It's back

Rule 4901, the pioneering residential wood-burning regulation which the San Joaquin Valley Air District was first in the state to adopt, returns to active duty on Nov. 1 for the 10th "Check Before You Burn" season.

The rule, which requires that residential wood burning be curtailed in each Valley county forecast to be in danger of exceeding the federal health standard for fine particulate matter (PM2.5), is recognized for reducing PM2.5 levels since 2003.

It is also credited as playing a major role in the Valley's PM10 attainment in 2006.

Residential wood burning is the largest source of PM during winter months, emitting an average of 17 tons per day Valley-wide.

Stagnant winter conditions in the Valley keep PM at ground level, often building to high concentrations. Exposure can cause lung infections, aggravate asthma, and increase the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

From November through February, Valley residents are reminded to "Check Before You Burn," to ensure that wood burning is allowed in your



county before lighting your fireplace, wood stove or pellet-fueled insert. The rule includes outdoor wood-burning devices.

Natural-gas devices are always exempt from the rule, as are residences in areas where natural-gas service does not exist.

How do you Check Before You Burn?

Visit www.valleyair.org to get all the details and see the daily forecast, which will provide one of two messages: "Please Burn Cleanly," or "Wood Burning Prohibited." While on the District's website, it's easy to register to receive the message through a daily e-mail, or you can call 1-800-SMOG-INFO, 1-800-(766-4463). The Air District will begin providing this information on Oct. 31 for use on Nov. 1.



Change in season means change in pollutants

RAAN helps make distinction

A change of seasons brings about a change in air pollutants and the Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) makes the transition seamlessly, providing constant, up-to-the-hour air quality information without missing a step.

Just as easily as you received updates on ozone pollution during the summer and early fall, you can now see how levels of particulate matter in our air change throughout the day.

Using RAAN allows Valley residents to always be armed with the knowledge of air pollution levels at any given time, wherever they may be.

Visit http://www.valleyair.org/Programs/RAAN/raan_landing.htm to sign up to receive this free information directly from the air monitoring station nearest you and always be abreast of current air quality.

This is the best way to plan for any type of outdoor activity.

District helps build EV Infrastructure

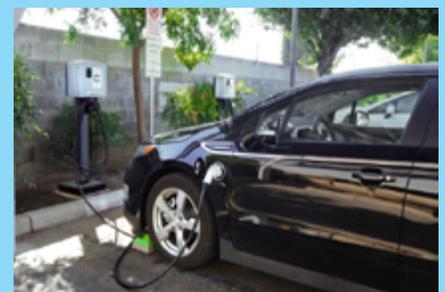
The Air District recently installed two electric vehicle charging stations at its headquarters in Fresno.

The charging stations, which were funded by the California Energy Commission and Clipper Creek, are available for any members of the public

to use, free of charge, during regular District business hours.

Based on available state funding, the District also plans to install charging stations at its Modesto and Bakersfield offices as part of an effort to help build an electric vehicle infrastructure in the San Joaquin Valley.

The Air District also provides rebates



for Valley residents to purchase electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.