

VALLEY AIR NEWS

A monthly publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - November 2014

Frequently asked questions about residential wood burning

Q: Can I still use my fireplace?

A: Under changes to the Check Before You Burn program (Rule 4901), Valley residents are not allowed to use their fireplaces or older wood stoves as often as in previous years.

However, residents who register their EPA Phase II-certified wood stoves/inserts or pellet-fueled heaters with the Air District will be allowed to burn more frequently. You can register your device on the District's website at: www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration.

See the residential wood burning declaration levels at right.

Q: How do I know if my wood burning device is EPA Phase II certified?

- A:**
 - Age of unit: Any wood burning stove or insert manufactured after July 1, 1990 should be certified.
 - EPA approved list: If your device is on the list provided by the EPA, it's certified. You can find the list here: <http://www.epa.gov/Compliance/resources/publications/monitoring/caa/woodstoves/certifiedwood.pdf>.
 - Industry contacts: Local hearth retailers or chimney sweeps should be able to help you determine if your unit is certified. Here is a list of retailers: <http://valleyair.org/grants/documents/burncleaner/2014-BC-Retailer-List.pdf>.

Q: Why do we need to have wood burning restrictions?

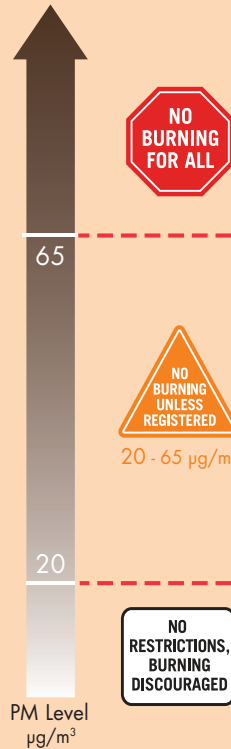
A: The Valley is required to adopt every feasible control strategy to attain federal air quality standards. These standards cannot be met without addressing residential wood burning. Particulate matter pollution is also a health problem in the Valley and residential wood burning is a major source.

Q: Do I have to pay to register my device?

A: Any registration for the 2014-15 wood burning season (issued before Feb. 28, 2015) is free and considered interim. Beginning in the 2015-16 wood burning season registration will cost \$12.50 and be valid for three years. In order to register, a certified hearth professional must verify that your device is EPA Phase II certified and in good working condition.

Q: What if wood is my only source of heat?

A: Residents who depend on wood as their sole source of heat or do not have access to natural gas service are exempt from wood burning prohibitions.



With new amendments to the District's wood burning rule, we hope the answers to these frequently asked questions answer any questions you may have?

Q: How many residents have registered their wood burning devices to date?

A: 1,453

Q: How many residents have applied for the Burn Cleaner Program to date?

A: 1,345

More ways to reach the Air District

The Valley Air District has improved our iPhone app allowing you more options when connecting with us! And, it's all free!

The app allows you to:

- Receive current, up-to-the-hour air quality information for your neighborhood, helping you make informed decisions when planning outdoor activities.
- Receive the daily wood burning declaration.
- Make an air quality-related complaint.

Be looking for the District's new Valley Air android app. Available soon.

