



VALLEY AIR NEWS

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

District amends residential wood burning rule

The District's Check Before You Burn residential wood-burning rule (4901), which minimizes the build-up of dangerous fine particulates (PM2.5), was amended by the District's Governing Board at its September meeting, building in a new wood-burning forecast level.

PM2.5 is a serious wintertime health threat that increases the risk of lung disease, respiratory illness, heart attacks and stroke, and residential wood burning contributes 13% of total winter-time PM2.5 emissions

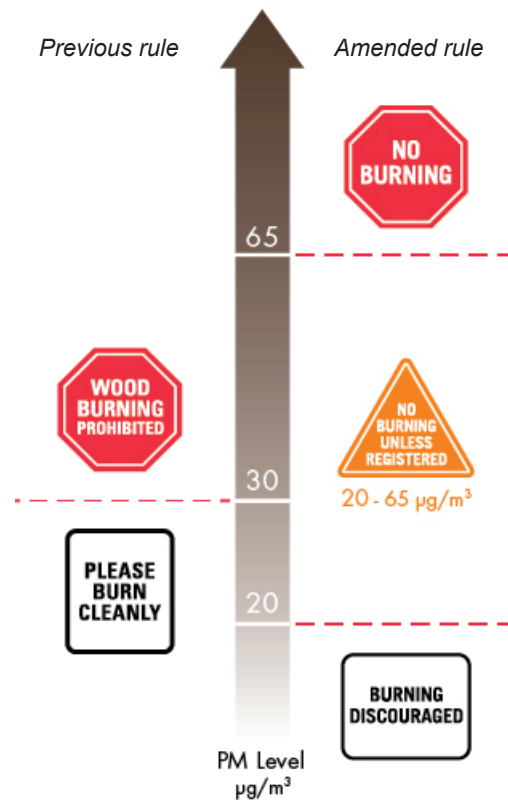
"This rule has been the most cost-effective regulation the District has developed and yields dramatic health benefits," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's executive director and air pollution control officer. "We're pleased that we can make it even more effective in encouraging the use of cleaner wood-burning devices."

Check Before You Burn, which begins Nov. 1 and runs through February, now includes an additional forecast level that increases the number of days that registered, certified "clean" wood-burning heaters and inserts can be used. At the same time, the new amendments decrease the number of allowable burn days for high-polluting "dirty" wood-burning heaters and fireplaces.

In order to be allowed to use a certified wood-burning device on certain days, residents can voluntarily

register their devices with the District. During the inaugural registration season, residents may self-certify their units with no fee.

The new wood-burning forecast levels are:



Bigger incentives to Burn Cleaner

To compliment amendments to the residential wood burning rule, the Valley Air District is increasing incentive amounts to change out open-hearth fireplaces and older wood-burning devices for clean-burning stoves and inserts.

The District is bolstering the Burn Cleaner incentive program, offering Valley residents up to \$1,500 off the cost of upgrading to an EPA-certified, wood-burning stove or insert, pellet stove or insert, or a natural-gas stove or insert. Qualified low-income residents will be eligible for \$2,500 off the cost of these appliances.

In addition, the District will make up to \$500 available for installation of natural gas for residents who purchase a gas stove or insert, but do not have the natural gas connection in place.

Burn Cleaner participants must reside in the San Joaquin Valley and use the program to upgrade or replace an existing unit to qualify. Program guidelines, application and a list of participating dealers are available on the Valley Air District's website at: www.valleyair.org/grants/burncleaner.htm.

The chart below explains the previous funding levels and new funding levels for the Burn Cleaner program.

New Heater	Previous Program Funding	New Program Funding
Gas stove or insert	\$500	Up to \$1,500
EPA Certified Pellet stove or insert	\$250	Up to \$1,500
EPA Certified Wood stove or insert	\$100	Up to \$1,500
Any Eligible Heater for Low Income Qualified Applicants	Up to \$1,500	Up to \$2,500
Additional Incentive for gas line installation	Not available	Up to \$500