

VALLEY AIR NEWS

March 2018



Mark Your Calendar

Enjoy the air with these spring events

March

- March 17: Tune In & Tune Up event, 8a.m.-12p.m. at Fresno Fairgrounds, Fresno
- March 24: Community Park Clean Up by the Merced City Youth Council, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Dennis Chavez Park, Merced
- March 31: Community Carnival: Bike & Pedestrian Safety Rodeo, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Roosevelt HS, Fresno, FresnoBike.org

April

- Community Health and Resource Fair, 9am-1pm Info: (559) 445-5532
April 3: Panzak Park, Fowler
April 12: Orange Cove
April 17: Mendota
- April 7: Tune In & Tune Up event, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, Stockton
- April 14: Earth Day Fresno, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Radio Park, earthdayfresno.org
- April 21: Earth Day 2018, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parking lot in front of Imagine U Interactive Children's Museum, Visalia
- April 21: Great American Cleanup, 8 a.m. at Yokuts Park, Bakersfield, KeepBakersfieldBeautiful.us
- April 21: Modesto Earth Day in the Park, 10am-4pm at Graceada Park
- April 22: Stockton Earth Day Festival, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Victory Park, Stockton, livegreensanjoaquin.org

Another Check Before You Burn Season Ends

Weeks of high pressure and atmospheric stagnation led to an increase of wood-burning curtailment days in the Valley during the 2017-2018 winter season. The Thomas Fire, which burned almost 300,000 acres in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, affected the Valley's air quality in December.

With the Valley's geography and topography, the high pressure acts like a lid over the mountains surrounding the region, trapping emissions and allowing them to build to high concentrations.

The Check Before You Burn program, which began on November 1 and finished at the end of February, helps minimize the build-up of harmful, fine-particle pollution in the Valley by issuing a daily wood-burning declaration for every county in the air basin. The declaration lets residents know what, if any, residential wood-burning devices may be used.

When wood-burning curtailments are declared, residents who violate them can be issued Notices of Violation, resulting in fines. This winter season saw a total of 479 notices issued compared to 269 the previous season.

Despite the poor dispersion, the peak levels of PM 2.5 this winter season were still lower than what the Valley used to see in the same conditions. The improvement reflects the progress the Valley has achieved in reducing emissions over the past two decades.

To learn about how residents can receive incentives to switch out older wood-burning devices for cleaner models with the Valley District's Burn Cleaner grant, visit www.valleyair.org/burncleaner. Register clean-burning devices ahead of next year's wood-burning season by visiting www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration.

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