

VALLEY AIR NEWS

October 2020



Protect Public Health: Avoid Burning this Winter

Reducing emissions from residential wood burning is a high priority for the District and critical to improving wintertime air quality and protecting public health.

Rule 4901 (Wood Burning Fireplaces and Burning Heaters) has had a significant impact in improving the Valley's air quality and reducing the public's exposure to PM 2.5 (fine particulate matter) which can trigger asthma attacks, aggravate chronic bronchitis, and increase the risk of heart attack and stroke. From November through February each winter, Rule 4901 requires all Valley residents to check the daily wood burning status to see if there are restrictions/curtailments in their county.

Curtailments apply to any indoor or outdoor device which burns solid fuel, such as wood, wood pellets or manufactured wood logs. This includes open hearth fireplaces, stoves and inserts, pellet stoves, outdoor chimineas and fire pits. The daily wood burning status is based on forecasted air quality for each county and there are three levels:

- No residential wood burning is allowed, except where wood burning is the sole source of heat or no natural gas service exists (*exemptions only apply to indoor devices*).



- Applies only to residents who own cleaner-burning EPA Certified wood and pellet-fueled devices, and have registered them with the Valley Air District. Open hearth fireplaces, older non-certified wood stoves/inserts and outdoor devices cannot be registered or used at this curtailment level. Visit www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration to see if your device qualifies to be registered.
- In an effort to protect public health, Valley residents are discouraged but not prohibited from residential wood burning.



To find the wood-burning status in your area:

- Visit checkbeforeyouburn.org
- Download and check in the Valley Air app
- Call 1-800-SMOG-INFO (1-800-766-4463)

Learn more about Rule 4901 at www.valleyair.org/rule4901.

Make the switch to a clean device!

With cooler weather around the corner, Valley residents are reminded that the District's Burn Cleaner incentive program offers as much as \$3,000 toward the change out of older wood stoves and fireplaces to cleaner devices such as natural gas fireplaces and EPA Certified wood/pellet stoves and inserts. The program helps

reduce particulate matter that comes from older wood-burning devices and contributes significantly to air pollution in the Valley during the fall and winter months.

To start your application, and save money on a clean device, visit: www.valleyair.org/burncleaner.

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