

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Launch of annual wood-burning curtailment campaign to include demonstration of clean burning devices and information on proposed fireplace restrictions

What: The Valley Air District is hosting a news conference in Fresno to launch the Please Don't Light Tonight program, to explain proposed restrictions on wood-burning fireplaces, and to demonstrate the difference in emissions between clean-burning, certified equipment and conventional, non-certified equipment.

When: 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Where: San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District -- Fresno Office
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave. (in the parking lot)
Fresno, CA 93726

More information on:

The Air District's annual "Please Don't Light Tonight" campaign. This campaign asks Valley residents to voluntarily refrain from burning wood when wintertime pollution reaches unhealthy levels. This year's program is voluntary. Next year's program likely will be mandatory.

Clean-burning alternatives available to Valley residents. **Clean-burning gas, pellet and wood stoves and inserts will be on display to demonstrate the visible emission reductions over older devices.** Valley Air District representatives will discuss how some of these units will be exempt from future wood-burning restrictions.

A proposed Valley Air District rule to prohibit wood-burning in fireplaces, stoves and heaters on the most polluted nights; to limit the number of wood-burning devices allowed in new housing developments; and to require retrofit or retirement of non-certified wood-burning equipment upon the sale of existing homes.

Why: The San Joaquin Valley fails federal health-based standards for particulate matter. The new rule addresses residential wood burning, which contributes significantly to high particulate levels, particularly in densely populated urban areas. Particulate matter is a mixture of pollutants, including microscopic pieces of soot, ash, salts, nitrates and smoke particles that pose serious health risks.