

News Release



>>City, features, business and assignment editors<<

North District Contact
Anthony Presto
(209) 557-6400

Central District Contact
Jaime Holt
(559) 230-5850

South District Contact
Brenda Turner
(661) 326-6900

First no-burn order in Fresno, Tulare counties Friday

Dec. 2 (Fresno, CA) - Wood burning is prohibited in Fresno and Tulare counties from midnight Thursday through midnight Friday, Dec. 3. It is the counties' first mandatory wood-burning curtailment of the season.

During the curtailment, residents in the affected areas may not use wood-burning fireplaces, heating stoves and inserts. Violations can result in fines.

The Check Before You Burn program, which runs Nov. 1 through Feb. 28, is designed to reduce fall and wintertime air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley. Since Nov. 1, the Air District has issued numerous voluntary curtailments throughout the San Joaquin Valley. There has also been one previous prohibition, in Kern County on Nov. 20.

Friday's prohibition does not apply to natural gas or propane devices; homes at elevations of 3,000 feet or higher; homes in which no other heating device exists and wood-burning is the sole source of heat; and homes in areas with no natural gas service.

Additionally, because of poor air quality, the Air District is asking residents in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera and Kern counties to voluntarily refrain from burning solid fuels, including firelogs and pellets, tomorrow.

When burning is allowed, it should be done as cleanly as possible, by using pellet-fueled heaters, manufactured firelogs in open fireplaces, or EPA Phase II-certified devices. It is illegal to burn garbage or treated wood either in a fireplace or outdoors at any time.

The wood-burning status is available in English and Spanish toll-free at 1-800-Smog-Info (766-4463) and at www.valleyair.org <<http://www.valleyair.org>>. Updates in Hmong are available toll-free at 1-877-344-1212.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern. For assistance, contact the nearest District office in Modesto at (209) 557-6440, Fresno (559) 230-6000 or Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.

#####