



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Check Before You Burn Begins November 1

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Sac Metro Air District) kicks off its Check Before You Burn season Monday, November 1, which runs through Feb. 28, 2022. During this time, residents and businesses in Sacramento County including those in the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento are required to check the daily burn status before using a wood-burning fireplace or other wood-burning device. The Sac Metro Air District will restrict or prohibit burning any solid fuel, including wood, pellets or manufactured fire logs, on days when fine particle pollution (PM2.5) is forecast to be high.

How to Check Before You Burn:

1. Download the free Sacramento Region Air Quality app
2. Visit www.AirQuality.org
3. Follow on Twitter @AQMD
4. Call 1-877-NO-BURN-5 (1-877-662-8765)
5. Sign up to get a daily Air Alert email at www.SpareTheAir.com – input your Sacramento County zip code and check the “Daily Air Quality Forecast” box

Exemptions:

- If wood burning is your sole source of heat, or if you have received an approved financial hardship waiver from the Sac Metro Air District, you may use your wood burning device on Stage 1 or Stage 2 No Burn days. The sole source exemption request form and hardship waiver are available at www.AirQuality.org or by calling 279-207-1122 x 11. Both waivers require District approval before being valid.
- Those with EPA-certified fireplace inserts, wood stoves or pellet stoves may use them on Stage 1 days provided the devices do not emit visible smoke.

Wood burning causes over 50 percent of the winter air pollution in Sacramento County. Fine particle pollution poses a serious health threat, and everyone breathes unhealthy air when weather conditions trap pollution close to the ground. Wood smoke, much like wildfire smoke, contains invisible particles that are small enough to enter the bloodstream. It is especially harmful for children, older adults and anyone with a pre-existing heart or lung condition. Breathing wood smoke increases the risk of asthma, heart attack, stroke, and many other health problems.

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To file an air quality complaint, visit Sac Metro Air District's [complaint webpage](#) or call 279-207-1122 x 11. First time violations will result in a \$50 fine or the option to pass a wood smoke awareness exam. Subsequent violations are higher.

For more information about this wood burning regulation, visit <http://www.airquality.org/residents/fireplaces-wood-stoves/check-before-you-burn>.

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