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Contact: AQMD Media Line
916-874-4888

Check Before You Burn Starts November 1 in Sacramento County and Its Cities

SACRAMENTO, Calif. 10/28/2013 – On Friday, November 1, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District will begin its seventh Check Before You Burn season to reduce the harmful health effects from wood smoke.

Wood burning will be restricted or prohibited on days when fine particle pollution is forecast to be high. This AQMD law applies to residents and businesses in Sacramento County and the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento through February 28, 2014. You must Check Before You Burn in your indoor or outdoor fireplace, wood stove, firepit or chiminea that burns wood, pellets, manufactured logs or any other solid fuel.

Call 1-877-NO-BURN-5 (1-877-662-8765), follow on Twitter @AQMD, or visit www.AirQuality.org or www.SpareTheAir.com.

The following exemptions apply:

- Homes where wood burning is the sole source of heat
- Financial hardship waiver *approved and renewed each burn season* by the Air Pollution Control Officer
- Devices that operate exclusively with natural gas or propane
- Cooking devices

Enforcement is through sightings of visible smoke by Air District enforcement staff. In addition to regular observation routes, staff visits locations determined by complaints. Staff will observe the smoke, write down the address and a notice of violation will be mailed to the property owner.

To report a complaint, or suspected violation, call the District at 1-800-880-9025. *First time violations will result in a \$50 fine or the violator can choose to complete and pass a wood smoke awareness course. Fines for subsequent violations are higher.*

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