



Date: October 30, 2014
Contact: AQMD Media Line
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Check Before You Burn Starts November 1

SACRAMENTO, Calif. 10/30/2014 – On Saturday, November 1, the 8th Check Before You Burn season begins. The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District’s wood burning law restricts or prohibits burning on days when fine particle pollution (PM2.5) is forecast to be high. Fine particle pollution is a serious health threat to residents in our area.

This law applies to residents and businesses in Sacramento County and the cities of Folsom, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento through February 28. 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.

Wood smoke contains invisible particles that are small enough to enter the bloodstream. Breathing wood smoke increases the risk of asthma, heart attack, stroke and many other health problems. It is especially harmful for children whose lungs are still developing, older adults and anyone with a pre-existing heart or lung condition.

Check Before You Burn:

- Call 1-877-NO-BURN-5 (1-877-662-8765)
- Follow on Twitter @AQMD
- Visit www.AirQuality.org or www.SpareTheAir.com
- Sign up to get the daily burn status through Air Alert emails at www.SpareTheAir.com. Input your zip code and select the “Daily Air Quality Forecast” box.
- Read the Sacramento Bee’s weather page

Here are a few exemptions:

- 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
- There is an exemption on Stage 1 – No Burn days if you use an EPA certified fireplace insert or stove, or pellet stove, and they do not emit visible smoke.

To report a complaint or suspected violation call 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.

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