



Date: December 12, 2017

Contact: Sac Metro Air District Media Line

916-874-4888

Burning Restrictions Continue Applies to Sacramento County, Including Folsom, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento

SACRAMENTO, CA – The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District has declared **Stage 2 – All Burning Prohibited for Tuesday, December 12 and Wednesday, December 13.** While the District evaluates conditions each day, the upper-level ridge of high pressure over Northern California is expected to remain through the next few days. These weather conditions are not uncommon and can lead to further extended periods of burning restrictions through February.

These weather conditions allow pollution to accumulate and stay trapped at ground level, especially during the morning and evening hours. You are advised to Check Before You Burn to get the daily burn status.

The Check Before You Burn law prohibits burning any solid fuel, including wood, pellets or manufactured firelogs on days when fine particle pollution is forecast to be high. This law applies to residents and businesses in Sacramento County, including the cities of Folsom, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento. To get the daily burn status:

- Download the free Sacramento Region Air Quality app
- Call 1-877-NO-BURN-5 (1-877-662-8765)
- Follow Sac Metro Air District on Twitter @AQMD
- Visit www.AirQuality.org
- Read The Sacramento Bee's weather page
- Sign up for daily Air Alert emails at www.SpareTheAir.com. Input your zip code and check the "Daily Air Quality Forecast" box.
- Follow on Facebook (<u>www.facebook.com/scooterthesparetheairdog</u>)

If wood burning is your sole source of heat, or if you believe you might qualify for a financial hardship waiver, please visit www.AirQuality.org or call 1-800-880-9025 to ask for a sole source exemption request form or hardship waiver.

Wood smoke is bad for your health. It contains invisible particles that are small enough to enter the bloodstream. It is especially harmful for children whose lungs are still developing, 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. Wood burning causes over 50 percent of winter pollution in Sacramento County.

To report a complaint, call 1-800-880-9025. First time violations will result in a \$50 fine or the option to pass a wood smoke awareness exam. For more information, visit www.AirQuality.org.