News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Sac Metro Air District Media Line
279-207-1122 ext. 4411

Check Before You Burn Season Begins Nov. 1 in Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Sac Metro Air District) reminds residents and businesses that Check Before You Burn season begins Nov. 1 and continues through the end of February 2027. The law requires residents and businesses in Sacramento County, including the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento, to check the daily burn status before using any wood-burning fireplace, stove, or other solid-fuel heating device.

When fine particle pollution (PM2.5) is forecast to reach unhealthy levels, the Sac Metro Air District restricts wood burning and other solid fuels, including pellets and manufactured fire logs, to protect public health.

During the winter, wood burning accounts for more than 50 percent of Sacramento County's fine particle pollution. Microscopic particles in wood smoke can travel deep into the lungs, enter the bloodstream, and pose serious health risks. Children, older adults, and people with heart or lung conditions are at greater risk. Exposure to wood smoke may aggravate asthma and increase the risk of cardiovascular and respiratory problems, including heart attacks and strokes.

Three simple ways to Check Before You Burn:

1. Visit www.AirQuality.org/CBYB for the daily burn status.
2. Follow @AQMD on X or @Sac Metro Air District on Facebook.
3. Call the burn status hotline at 1-877-NO-BURN-5 (1-877-662-8765).

Violations can result in fines. If you see or smell smoke on a day when burning is restricted, report the suspected violations by submitting a complaint on the Sac Metro Air District's website or calling 279-207-1122 ext. 11. First-time violations result in a $50 fine or the option to complete a wood smoke awareness exam; repeat violations are subject to higher penalties.

For more information, visit www.AirQuality.org/CBYB.

About Sac Metro Air District

The Sac Metro Air District is a regional public agency working to protect public health and improve air quality in Sacramento County. The district's efforts span air quality monitoring, community air protection, and initiatives to reduce emissions and advance cleaner technologies. Through public education, community partnerships, and financial incentives, the district works with residents, businesses, and regional stakeholders to address air pollution and climate challenges. Learn more at www.AirQuality.org.

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