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Contact: Sac Metro Air District Media Line
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Residential Wood Burning Restrictions Start November 1 in Sacramento County, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Check Before You Burn starts on Sunday, November 1, and runs through February. During this time, the Sac Metro Air District will restrict or prohibit burning any solid fuel, including wood, pellets or manufactured firelogs, on days when fine particle pollution (PM2.5) is forecast to be high. The law applies to residents and businesses in **Sacramento County and the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento**. These residents and businesses are required to check the daily burn status before using a wood burning fireplace or other wood burning device to make sure it's legal to burn.

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 the smoke from the wildfires that have been plaguing California, 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.

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. Both the sole source exemption request form and hardship waiver are available at www.AirQuality.org or by calling 1-800-880-9025.
- 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.

To file an air quality complaint, visit www.AirQuality.org/Residents/Complaints or call 1-800-880-9025. First time violations will result in a \$50 fine or the option to pass a wood smoke awareness exam. Subsequent violations are higher.

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