



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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279-207-1122 ext. 4411

Starting Nov. 1, Sacramento Residents and Businesses Must Check Before You Burn

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Sac Metro Air District) will launch its annual Check Before You Burn season on Nov. 1. The program runs through the end of February. 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 the burning of solid fuels, including wood, pellets, and manufactured fire logs. This law helps protect public health by reducing air pollution caused by wood smoke.

Wood burning during the winter months contributes to more than 50 percent of the fine particle pollution in Sacramento County. Similar to wildfire smoke, wood smoke contains tiny toxic particles that can enter the bloodstream when inhaled, posing serious health risks. Children, older adults, and individuals with heart or lung conditions are especially vulnerable. Exposure to wood smoke can increase the risk of asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, and other respiratory or cardiovascular problems.

Three easy ways to Check Before You Burn:

1. Visit www.AirQuality.org/CBYB for the daily burn status.
2. Follow [@AQMD](https://twitter.com/AQMD) on X (formerly Twitter) or Facebook [@Sac Metro Air District](https://www.facebook.com/SacMetroAirDistrict).
3. Call the burn status hotline at 1-877-NO-BURN-5 (1-877-662-8765).

If you see or smell smoke on a day when burning is prohibited, report it 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 details, visit the Check Before You Burn webpage at www.AirQuality.org/CBYB.

About Sac Metro Air District

The Sac Metro Air District is responsible for monitoring air quality, reducing air pollution, and enforcing air quality regulations in Sacramento County. The Air District also plays a leading role in promoting clean energy efforts through innovative programs, financial incentives, and other initiatives throughout Sacramento County and the larger region. The Air District's mission is to achieve state and federal clean air and climate goals as we envision a clean air and sustainable future for all. For more information about the Air District, please visit www.AirQuality.org.

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