



# FIREPLACE AND WOODSTOVE CHANGE OUT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Sac Metro Air District has funding to help residents replace polluting traditional fireplaces and wood stoves with cleaner-burning units.

Call **916-440-WOOD (9663)** or send an email to [woodstove@airquality.org](mailto:woodstove@airquality.org) to find out if you qualify.



**DAILY BURN STATUS**  
1-877-NO-BURN-5 (1-877-662-8765)



To report a complaint or suspected violation, call the Sac Metro Air District at **1-800-880-9025**.

777 12th Street, Ste. 300  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[AirQuality.org](http://AirQuality.org)  
[SpareTheAir.com](http://SpareTheAir.com)

**SpareTheAir Scooter**  
 **@AQMD**  
 **@SacramentoAQMD**

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN



# CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN

## It's the Law in Sacramento County November-February

This law applies to residents and businesses in Sacramento County:  
Citrus Heights • Elk Grove • Folsom • Galt Isleton • Rancho Cordova • Sacramento



## DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 Wood burning causes over 50 percent of winter pollution in Sacramento County.
- 2 Wood smoke contains invisible particles, which can cause serious health effects.
- 3 Breathing wood smoke triggers asthma attacks, makes it harder to breathe and has been linked to heart disease.
- 4 Children, older adults and the elderly are at greater health risk from wood smoke.
- 5 Wood smoke pollution can be reduced by using seasoned hardwood.
- 6 Calm, cold weather traps wood smoke in neighborhoods, preventing dispersion.
- 7 Wood burning increases as it gets colder outside, which creates more pollution near the ground where we breathe.
- 8 Burning garbage, wrapping paper, or painted or chemically treated wood releases toxics into the air and is illegal at all times.
- 9 Smoke can re-enter your home or enter your neighbor's home even when doors and windows are closed.
- 10 Wood smoke particles contain toxics, which can stay in your lungs for months, causing changes that lead to diseases and structural damage.

# Check Before You Burn

From November through February, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District's wood burning law, Check Before You Burn, restricts or prohibits burning on days when fine particle pollution (PM2.5) is forecast to be high.



## The law requires you to know the daily burn status before

you use an indoor or outdoor fireplace, wood stove, fire pit or chiminea that burns wood, pellets, manufactured logs or any other solid fuel. Fine particle pollution is a serious health threat and everyone breathes unhealthy air when weather conditions trap pollution close to the ground.

This law applies to residents and businesses in Sacramento County and the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento. First time violations will result in a \$50 fine, or you may take and pass a wood smoke awareness exam. Fines for subsequent violations are higher.

Wood burning causes over 50 percent of winter air pollution in Sacramento County. Check Before You Burn reduces harmful emissions to protect public health and achieve air quality standards.

## Exemptions

You may use your wood burning device on a Stage 1 or Stage 2 day, if:

- ✓ Wood burning is your sole source of heat.
- ✓ A Financial Hardship Waiver has been submitted and approved by the Air Pollution Control Officer. This waiver must be renewed each burn season.

Both the sole source exemption request form and hardship waiver are available at [www.AirQuality.org](http://www.AirQuality.org) or by calling **1-800-880-9025**.

## Health Effects

Fine particle pollution may contain soot, smoke, metals, nitrates, sulfates and dust. These invisible particles are small enough to enter the bloodstream. Children, the elderly and anyone with a pre-existing heart or lung condition are more likely to suffer health effects.

Long-term exposure to wood smoke increases the risk of heart attack and stroke and can cause:

- ✓ Decreased lung function
- ✓ Aggravated asthma
- ✓ Development of chronic respiratory disease in children (asthma)
- ✓ Irregular heartbeat
- ✓ Premature death in people with heart or lung disease
- ✓ Increased susceptibility to heart and vascular disease for post-menopausal women
- ✓ Reduced blood clotting ability

## How to Check Before You Burn



- 1 Download the **free Sacramento Region Air Quality app**, available in app stores.
- 2 Call **1-877-NO-BURN-5** (1-877-662-8765).
- 3 Follow **@AQMD** on Twitter.
- 4 Visit **AirQuality.org**.
- 5 Sign up to get a daily burn status email at **SpareTheAir.com**. Input your zip code and select the Daily Air Quality Forecast box.



# BURN DAY STATUS CATEGORIES



>35 ug/m<sup>3</sup>

## Stage 2 – All Burning Prohibited

All burning is prohibited in any device when fine particle pollution is forecast to exceed 35 micrograms per cubic meter. It's illegal to burn any solid fuel, including wood, manufactured logs and pellets.



32- 35 ug/m<sup>3</sup>

## Stage 1 – No Burn Unless Exempt

It's illegal to burn when fine particle pollution is forecast to be 32 – 35 micrograms per cubic meter. EPA certified fireplace inserts or stoves or pellet stoves may be used if they do not emit visible smoke.



26- 31 ug/m<sup>3</sup>

PM Level ug/m<sup>3</sup>  
(micrograms per cubic meter)

## Burning is Discouraged – Voluntary

You are asked to voluntarily not burn when fine particle pollution is forecast to be 26 – 31 micrograms per cubic meter.