

VALLEY AIR NEWS

September 2023



Clean Air Rooms Program remains open in some AB 617 communities

Residents living within the boundaries of the South Central Fresno, Shafter and Stockton AB 617 boundaries still have an opportunity to participate in the District's Clean Air Rooms Program and receive a free portable air filtration unit for their homes while supplies last. This device will assist in purifying the air during periods of poor air quality caused by wildfires and allow residents to create a dedicated "clean air room" in their homes where they can stay when smoke events occur.

The devices are available on a first-come, first-served basis and only one per address. Residents can check to see if they qualify by visiting www.valleyair.org/roompurifier



Phase out of open agricultural burning continues... be prepared

As the 2023 year ends, the near-complete phase out of open agricultural burning in the San Joaquin Valley is one year closer. Starting Jan. 1, 2024, tighter restrictions will begin for some in the ag community.

- **Citrus & Fruit Growers:** Prohibit orchard removal for open burns equal or less than 15 acres at ag operations with greater than 100 acres of total orchards at all locations. (Due to disease issues, apple, pear and quince crops are currently exempt from these requirements.)
- **Grape Growers:**
 - o Cordon: Prohibit burning at ag operations with greater than 250 acres of total vines at all locations
 - o Cane-Pruned: Prohibit burning at ag operations with greater than 100 acres of total vines at all locations
 - o Raisin Trays: Prohibit open burning of raisin trays
- **Nut Growers:** Prohibit orchard removal for open burns equal or less than 15 acres at ag operations with greater than 100 acres of total orchards at all locations

To help farmers with the transition, the Valley Air District encourages farmers to take advantage of the Ag Burn Alternatives grant program, which provides incentives with the processing of vineyard and orchard removals through non-burning alternatives.

For more information on the upcoming phase-out requirements and the Ag Burn Alternatives grant program, visit www.valleyair.org/agburnalternatives

Clean Air Centers map now available

During episodes of poor air quality due to impacts by wildfires, the public can visit a Clean Air Center. Similar to the Valley's cooling centers, the District's Clean Air Centers provide a place for relief when wildfires and smoke events occur.

To see a map of locations, visit the Clean Air Centers website: www.valleyair.org/cleanaircenters

FOR THE LATEST NEWS, CONNECT WITH US, SEARCH "VALLEY AIR":

