

VALLEY AIR NEWS

December 2023



Winter program underway to limit wood smoke in neighborhoods

Before Valley residents can light up a wood-burning fireplace inside their home or a fire pit in their backyard, they first need to check with the Valley Air District to see what the daily residential burn status is for their county.

From November 1 through the end of February every year, the District releases a daily, county-by-county, wood-burning status based on the air quality forecast.

- › No Burning For All: Burning any solid fuel - including wood, pellets and manufactured wood - is prohibited from midnight to midnight.
- › No Burning Unless Registered: If residents have a clean-burning device registered with the District, they can burn wood inside their residence. Use of any unregistered wood-burning device is prohibited.
- › Burning Discouraged: If residents must use a wood-burning device, please ensure the firewood is clean, seasoned and dry. Unseasoned wood smolders and creates additional emissions.

The residential wood-burning status can be found at valleyair.org/burnstatus, on the Valley Air app or by calling 1-800-SMOG-INFO (1-800-766-4463).

Remember, burning trash is always illegal. Residences with no other source of heat or no access to piped-in natural gas (even if you use propane) are exempt from these restrictions. Cooking fires on cooking devices are also exempt. Outdoor (non-cooking) wood-burning devices at all residences are still subject to the daily restrictions, regardless of exemption status. Violations may result in fines.

District's Governing Board honors Valley student artists

Fourteen student artists from the San Joaquin Valley were recognized during the December Governing Board meeting for their artwork in the Valley Air District's Healthy Air Living Kids Calendar. The winning art entries featured in the bilingual 2024 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar illustrate clean-air messages. The annual calendar is designed to educate and inspire the public to reduce air pollution in the Valley.

The District congratulates the following talented students in the 2024 calendar:

- › Israel Ruiz Medina, 6th grade, Hanford – Cover artist
- › Miguel Zapata, 6th grade, Bakersfield
- › Isabel Fuentes, 8th grade, Turlock
- › Calla Martinez, 4th grade, Fresno
- › Delmira Rubio, 11th grade, Stockton
- › Marli Roman, 10th grade, Stockton
- › Bryten Lane, 7th grade, Clovis
- › Mia, 3rd grade, Madera
- › Evelyn, 7th grade, Bakersfield
- › Hector Gomez, Merced County
- › Christina Rodriguez, 11th grade, Kerman
- › Alexander Piña Nuñez, 4th grade, Tipton
- › Santiago Medina, 4th grade, Hanford
- › Reagan, Madera County

The free calendars are distributed Valley wide to schools, organizations and individuals upon request, while supplies last.

To request calendars, visit valleyair.org/kidscalendar, call (559) 230-6000 or stop by a District office.

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