



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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Check Before You Burn Season Begins November 1

Program aims to reduce air pollution in winter months

DIAMOND BAR, CA – Wednesday, November 1st marks the start of the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (South Coast AQMD) 12th Annual Check Before You Burn season. From November through the end of February, residents are asked to check whether a No-Burn Day has been declared before burning wood in their fireplaces.

The purpose of this program is to limit emissions of fine particulate matter (PM2.5).

A No-Burn Day is a 24-hour ban on wood-burning in residential fireplaces, stoves or outdoor fire pits in the South Coast Air Basin. South Coast AQMD forecasters call for residential No-Burn Days when PM2.5 is expected to reach elevated levels due to air emissions and stagnant weather conditions. High PM2.5 episodes are most common on calm and cool winter days. Additional pollution from wood burning is more likely to create unhealthy air quality conditions on No-Burn Days. 10 No-Burn Days were called last winter.

Short-term exposure to PM2.5 can cause throat and eye irritation, aggravate asthma and trigger other respiratory or cardiovascular health problems. Prolonged exposure to high levels of PM2.5 may increase the risk of strokes, heart attacks and cancers. Young children, older adults and people with lung or heart diseases are especially vulnerable to the health effects of PM2.5. Burning wood contributes to poor indoor air quality and poor air quality in surrounding neighborhoods.

South Coast AQMD has a related program to help reduce the cost to purchase and install cleaner products (stoves, inserts, gas logs and retrofit kits). Under the [Wood Stove and Fireplace Change-Out Voucher Incentive Program](#), residents in eligible zip codes can apply for a voucher that can be taken to a



participating retailer that will discount the price to purchase and install a qualifying device. Households that meet low-income qualifications are eligible for higher incentive amounts.

South Coast AQMD is providing several resources to the public to make following No-Burn Days as convenient as possible:

- **E-Mail Notifications:** Sign up to receive [Air Alerts](#) on air quality and be notified when a mandatory No-Burn Day has been issued for your neighborhood.
- **Check Before You Burn Map:** Visit the [Check Before You Burn map](#) on our website for daily forecast information.
- **Toll-Free Phone Number:** Call 866-966-3293 for daily Check Before You Burn information.
- **Web Resources:** Visit South Coast AQMD's Check Before You Burn Program webpage at www.aqmd.gov/cbyb for more information.
- **Mobile App:** Download the [South Coast AQMD app](#) to check local air quality
- **Social Media:** Follow South Coast AQMD's social media accounts on [Facebook](#), [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter) and [Instagram](#).

South Coast AQMD's No-Burn Day alerts do not apply to mountain communities above 3,000 feet in elevation, the Coachella Valley or High Desert, homes that rely on wood as a sole source of heat, low-income households and those without natural gas service. Gas and other non-wood burning fireplaces are also exempt.

About Check Before You Burn

Check Before You Burn is South Coast AQMD's late fall and early winter program that seeks to educate residents about the hazards of wood smoke and prohibits burning of firewood in a fireplace, stove or outdoor fire pit on No-Burn Days, when unhealthy air quality is forecast.

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at www.aqmd.gov, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter) and [Instagram](#).

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