



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 2, 2023

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South Coast AQMD's 11th Annual Check Before You Burn Season Closes with 10 No-Burn Days *Down 70 percent From Last Season*

DIAMOND BAR – The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) declared 10 No-Burn days across the South Coast Air Basin during the 11th annual Check Before You Burn season. This is a decrease from last year's 35 No-Burn days. The majority of No-Burn days occurred during the holiday period at the end of December 2022. This year, the nearly 70 percent decrease in No-Burn days was likely due in large part to more frequent winter storms.

This season approximately 110 complaints were received and investigated related to unauthorized burning on No-Burn days. In addition, 24 violation notices were issued to those who were observed to be burning on No-Burn days.

Pollution from wood smoke contains PM_{2.5}, which can lodge deep in the lungs and cause a variety of respiratory health problems. No-Burn day alerts ban the burning of wood or manufactured fire logs for residential fireplaces and outdoor fire pits when levels of fine particulate air pollution are forecasted to be high.

The Check Before You Burn Season spans from November 1st through February 28th, when residential wood burning is most common and elevated particle pollution levels are possible due to winter weather conditions. No-Burn days are based on fine particulate pollution that is forecasted for an entire 24-hour period, which may not be reflected in real-time air quality maps.

Although some might consider wood smoke "natural," smoke caused by burning wood in fireplaces can emit approximately five tons of harmful PM_{2.5} emissions per day in the South Coast Air Basin. That is equal to PM_{2.5} emissions from all passenger vehicles in the Basin. However, during the Check Before You Burn season when wood burning activities are more common, the PM_{2.5} emissions from this source can be twice as high compared to an average day in the year. Reducing wood burning on No-Burn days is critical as we work toward meeting federal PM_{2.5} clean air standards.

Residents can take advantage of incentives through South Coast AQMD's CLEANair Furnace Rebate Program to replace older systems. The program is currently accepting applications for consumer rebates

on Ultra-Low NOx High Altitude Furnaces, Ultra-Low NOx Weatherized Furnaces and replacement of a gas-fired furnace with a traditional all-electric heat pump system.

For more information on the Check Before You Burn Program, please visit www.aqmd.gov/cbyb. Residents can sign up for email or text notifications of No-Burn days at www.AirAlerts.org.

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](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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