



NO BURN DAY ALERT: MANDATORY WOOD-BURNING BAN IN EFFECT FOR RESIDENTS OF THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN

All Indoor and Outdoor Residential Wood Burning Prohibited Due to High Air Pollution Predicted for *Friday, December 4* Through *Saturday, December 5, 2020*

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) has issued a residential no burn day alert effective from **Friday, December 4** at midnight through 11:59 PM on **Saturday, December 5, 2020**, for all those living in the South Coast Air Basin, which includes Orange County and non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. South Coast AQMD reminds residents in these areas that burning wood in their fireplaces or any indoor or outdoor wood-burning device is prohibited during the mandatory wood-burning ban. The no burn rule prohibits burning wood as well as manufactured fire logs, such as those made from wax or paper.

Do your part to help keep our air clean by not burning wood during the mandatory wood burning ban. No burn day alerts are mandatory in order to protect public health when levels of fine particulate air pollution in the region are forecast to be high. Smoke from wood burning can cause health problems. Particles in wood smoke – also known as fine particulate matter or PM2.5 – can get deep into the lungs and cause respiratory problems (including asthma attacks), increases in emergency room visits and hospitalizations.

Residents can help reduce the harmful health effects of wood smoke by signing up to receive e-mail alerts at www.AirAlerts.org to learn when a mandatory no burn day alert is issued.

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

South Coast AQMD's ***Check Before You Burn*** program is in effect from November through the end of February, when particulate levels are highest. Nine no burn day alerts have been issued for the 2020-2021 season. Additional information is available at www.AirAlerts.org. For 24-hour recorded information, call (866) 966-3293. An interactive map is available at www.aqmd.gov/CheckBeforeYouBurnMap.

In order to avoid increasing PM2.5 levels even further, South Coast AQMD recommends that the public avoid burning wood during periods of poor air quality. Per South Coast AQMD Rule 444, burning wood on the beach is prohibited in areas where PM2.5 AQI exceeds 100. On Friday, December 04, beach wood burning is prohibited in North Coastal Orange County (Area 18), Central Coastal Orange County (Area 20) and Capistrano Valley (Area 21). On Saturday, December 05, beach wood burning is prohibited in Southwest Coastal Los Angeles County (Area 3) and South Coastal Los Angeles County (Area 4).

South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, and Riverside counties.