

Earth Log: Let's talk about those wood-burning rules again | Earth Log

A murky winter day in downtown Fresno.

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EARTH LOG MARK GROSSI

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Posted by Mark Grossi on September 22, 2014 Updated 22 hours ago

Judging from the number of calls and emails I received, we should talk about those wood-burning rules again.

I stopped counting after the first dozen calls and emails [after the story published](#). The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District already has received more than 130 calls about the changes -- which took place last Thursday.

The short version of the rule changes: Folks who register their federally certified wood-burning stove or heater with the local air district probably will be able to burn most of the winter.

Those with fireplaces and old units will probably see wood-burning bans for most of the winter, depending on the weather. Expect more burning bans if we get a dry, stagnant or foggy winter.

Who should you call if you want to register one of these certified devices? How can you find out where they are sold? Can you qualify for up to a \$1,500 grant or a \$2,500 grant for qualified low-income buyers?

The answer to all those question is at 559 230-6000.

Or, go to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District [web page](#). The top two links at the top of "Featured items" are the keys.

Among other detailed information, you will find a list of retailers who sell this kind of wood-burning device. The list can be found [here](#).

District executive director Seyed Sadredin said 70 people already had applied for grants, and about 60 people have

approached the district to get their certified heaters registered.

“People also can apply for the grant through a retailer,” Sadredin said.

The rule change takes effect on Nov. 1. So if you see smoke coming from a chimney on a no-burn day after Nov. 1, [here's how to complain](#).

The next most popular question: Did wood-burning exemptions change? No.

If your sole source of heat is burning wood, you're exempt. If you have no connection to natural gas service, you're exempt.

Also, if you use natural gas, propane or butane in your heating device, the burning bans do not apply to you. On the other hand, if you burn wood in an outdoor fire pit, you can't use it on days when burning is banned.

Lastly, if you would like to read the report presented the day of the vote on these changes, go to [this link](#). It's actually quite interesting.

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