



NEWS

**For Immediate Release
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Air District Announces Workshops to Discuss Draft Wood Smoke Regulation

San Francisco, CA - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) has announced a series of public workshops to review and receive input from the public regarding the draft Regulation 6, Rule 3: Wood-Burning Devices.

The Air District is seeking to reduce emissions of harmful Particulate Matter (PM) from wood-burning devices, including indoor and outdoor fireplaces and wood-burning stoves. Last winter the Bay Area exceeded the public health standard for particulate levels twenty times. The emission limitations in this draft rule are intended to reduce PM levels and help achieve clean air on a region-wide basis.

Wood smoke contains a complex mixture of gases and particles. The smaller-sized particles, 2.5 microns or smaller, are of greatest health concern. When inhaled, they can lodge deeply in the lungs and affect the cardio-respiratory system. Studies have linked high particulate levels to health effects such as nose and throat irritation, aggravated asthma, bronchitis, and lung damage. People with respiratory illnesses, children and the elderly are more sensitive to the effects of PM, but it can affect everyone.

Public participation is important to the rule development process. At the workshops, staff will review the draft regulation and respond to questions from the public. A final proposal incorporating consideration of public comments will be presented to the Air District Board of Directors.

The draft regulation would:

1. Curtail operation of any wood-burning device during periods forecast to have unhealthy air quality;
2. Establish limitations on visible emissions (smoke) from wood burning;
3. Establish criteria for the sale, transfer or installation of wood-burning devices;
4. Establish criteria for the installation of wood-burning devices in new construction;
5. Prohibit the burning of garbage and certain types of materials;
6. Establish requirements for the sale of wood products for use in wood-burning devices.

For a copy of the detailed workshop report go to www.baaqmd.gov and look under Rules and Regulations, workshop.

Note: These workshops will also be available via webcast at www.baaqmd.gov/woodsmoke.htm. Live webcast links for future workshops will not be active until the day of the meeting.

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 1-3 pm Metropolitan Transportation Commission Metrocenter Auditorium 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, 94607	Thursday, Nov. 8, 1-3 pm Steele Lane Community Center Dohn Room 415 Steele Lane Santa Rosa, 95403	Wednesday, Nov. 14, 6-8 pm San Jose State University Costanoan Room One Washington Square, San Jose, 95192
Thursday, Nov. 15, 6-8 pm Ramada Inn 1000 Admiral Callaghan Lane Vallejo, 94591	Thursday, Nov. 15, 1-3 pm Holiday Inn 1050 Burnett Avenue, Concord, 94520	Friday, Nov. 16, 1-3 pm Seaport Conference Center 459 Seaport Court Redwood City, 94063
Monday, Nov. 26, 6-8 pm Robert Livermore Community Center Cresta Blanca Room 4444 East Avenue Livermore, 94550		

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