



# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT: Ralph Borrman**  
**415.749.4900**

## **Air District seeks public comment on draft wood burning rule amendments**

**SAN FRANCISCO** - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is seeking public comment on proposed amendments to its wood burning regulation, which are designed to further protect public health from hazardous fine particle pollution.

Public comments from nine Bay Area workshops this past spring have been incorporated into these revised amendments.

"The wood burning rule has been one of our most effective tools in reducing fine particle pollution in the region during the winter season," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "These amendments along with \$3 million committed for heating upgrades will provide significant relief to the Bay Area during cold, stagnant winter days when wood smoke pollutes our neighborhoods."

This spring, the Air District hosted nine workshops to discuss the initial concepts for the proposed amendments to **Regulation 6, Rule 3: Wood Burning Devices**. As a result of comment and discussion with Bay Area residents and other stakeholders during this process, the initial draft amendments have been revised and the revised versions are now being offered for a final 30-day public comment. The Air District will open a change out program for fireplaces and wood burning stoves in the spring of 2016. Funding priority will go to low income residents and high wood smoke impact areas.

In brief, the proposed changes to Regulation 6, Rule 3 include:

**Sole Source of Heat Exemption** - The proposed amendment provides an exemption to households with no permanently installed natural gas, propane or electric heating options. Households may qualify for the "sole source of heat" exemption if the only source of heat is a wood-burning device that is EPA certified and registered in the Air District's registration program.

**Non-Functional, Permanently Installed Heater** – Households may receive a temporary 30-day exemption to repair a non-functional heater. Upon request by the Air District, claimants of this exemption must submit repair documentation for exemption verification.

**Visible Emissions Limitation** - Under the proposed amendment, following a 20-minute start-up allowance for new fires, visible emissions of greater than 20 percent opacity and aggregate to 3 minutes in any hour would be considered an exceedance of the standard.

**Manufacturing and Sales of New Wood Heaters** - The proposed amendment would require wood-heater manufacturers and retailers to comply with newly adopted EPA emission standards and compliance dates for all wood heaters sold or manufactured in the Bay Area.

*Continued... Air District seeks public comment...*

**Requirements for Remodeling a Fireplace or Chimney** All fireplace or chimney remodels that exceed costs of greater than \$15,000 and requires a local building permit is required to replace an uncertified wood burning device or fireplace with an EPA certified wood-burning device, gas-fueled or electric heater.

**Requirements for New Building Construction** – Under the proposed amendment, wood-burning devices may no longer be installed in new building construction. New building construction must install cleaner and more efficient heating options, such as gas-fueled or electric heaters.

**Disclosure Requirements for Real Estate Property** – The proposed amendment requires all real estate and rental properties to disclose the health hazards of PM2.5 from burning wood or any solid fuel as a source of heat.

The Air District welcomes public comments on the draft rule and the staff report on the proposed amendments until **October 19, 2015, by 9 a.m.** Comments may be submitted by phone, by U.S. mail or by email. To submit comments on the draft rule, you can contact the Air District's Wood Smoke Hotline at (415) 749-4989 or via email at [public@baaqmd.gov](mailto:public@baaqmd.gov).

For copies of the draft amendment proposals and supporting documents, please visit our website at <http://www.baaqmd.gov/news-and-events/air-district-news/091815-wb-rule>.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District ([www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov)) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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