



WOOD BURNING FIREPLACES AND WOOD BURNING HEATERS (RULE 4901)

On June 20, 2019, the District’s Board adopted amendments to Rule 4901 (Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters) to reduce the public’s exposure to harmful particulates from wood smoke. The amendments apply to the counties of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and the Valley air basin portion of Kern.

Residential wood burning is one of the largest sources of PM2.5 in the San Joaquin Valley during the winter season. Emissions associated with residential wood burning are confined to the time of year when the Valley experiences peak PM2.5 concentrations. Scientific studies show that prolonged inhalation of wood smoke contributes to adverse impacts on human health, especially among children, elderly, individuals with certain medical conditions, and individuals who are sensitive to the impacts of air pollution.

Rule amendments regarding remodeling fireplaces and the installation of new wood burning fireplaces and heaters are summarized below.

REMODELING FIREPLACES

Anyone making a modification to a fireplace or chimney that impacts the physical structure of the fireplace or chimney must install an EPA certified, gas-fueled, or electric device if:

- Cost of fireplace remodel exceeds \$15,000, and
- Building permit application for the modification is submitted after January 1, 2020

Aesthetic modifications that do not affect the physical structure of the fireplace are not subject to this requirement, i.e. installing decorative stone/tile in front of fireplace.

INSTALLATION OF NEW WOOD BURNING FIREPLACES AND HEATERS*

The following installation restrictions remain in effect **until December 31, 2019.**

Location	Restrictions
Any residential development with more than 2 dwelling units per acre	No installation of wood burning fireplace No installation of more than two (2) EPA Phase II Certified wood burning heaters
Any residential development with 2 or less dwelling units per acre	No installation of more than one (1) wood burning fireplace or EPA Phase II Certified wood burning heaters per dwelling unit

The following installation restrictions become effective on **January 1, 2020.**

Elevation	Natural Gas Access	Requirement
3000 ft or above	Yes	Only allow 2 EPA certified units per acre, limited to 1 per home
3000 ft or above	No	
Below 3000 ft	No	No wood burning device
Below 3000 ft	Yes	

*These restrictions do not apply to the upgrade of existing wood burning fireplaces or wood burning heaters to cleaner devices.