

629 Entler Avenue, Suite 15  
Chico, CA 95928

(530) 332-9400  
(530) 332-9417 Fax



W. James Wagoner  
Air Pollution Control Officer

David J. Lusk  
Assistant Air Pollution Control Officer



## Check Before You Light

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 28, 2019

### CHECK BEFORE YOU LIGHT SEASON ENDS

Contact: Jason Mandly, Senior Air Quality Planner  
332-9400 - or – [air@bcaqmd.org](mailto:air@bcaqmd.org)

The Butte County Air Quality Management District (District) announces the end of the 2018-2019 **Check Before You Light Program**. Starting Friday, March 1, 2019, there will be no restrictions on indoor residential wood burning other than the type of fuel burned. Please remember that it is always prohibited to burn household trash, chemically treated or painted wood at anytime.

The **Check Before You Light** Program is an annual wintertime air quality program (November through February) that aims to reduce levels of dangerous airborne particulate matter (PM2.5). The District issues advisories requesting residents voluntarily refrain from using their woodstoves and fireplaces on poor air quality days.

During the 2018-2019 season, the District issued five (5) **Check Before You Light** advisories for the Chico and Gridley areas. All five advisories were issued during smoke impacts from the Camp Fire. Based on preliminary data, there were twelve (12) exceedances of the federal 24-hour PM2.5 standard at the Chico monitoring location and eleven (11) exceedances at the Gridley monitoring location between November and February. All exceedances were due to smoke impacts from the Camp Fire. There were no exceedances of the standard in Butte County for the remainder of the program season.

Residential chimney smoke is a major source of wintertime air pollution in Butte County. More than a nuisance, the microscopic particles in smoke have been linked to serious health injury. The good news is that your choices can do a lot for clean air. The District thanks residents for doing their part to improve air quality in their communities.

If you have any questions or would like further information please contact the District at **332-9400** during regular business hours Monday through Friday. Information is also available on the District website at [www.bcaqmd.org](http://www.bcaqmd.org).