



## Check Before You Light

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CHECK BEFORE YOU LIGHT ADVISORY IS IN EFFECT

On Wednesday, December 23, 2020

The Butte County Air Quality Management District (District) is requesting residents in the **Chico** area to voluntarily refrain from using their woodstoves and fireplaces on **Wednesday, December 23, 2020** from **12:01 am to the following midnight**. The voluntary curtailment has been prompted by an air quality forecast of Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups for the Chico area.

**Important Note: Woodstove and fireplace use within the Chico City limits is restricted by a City ordinance. For more information, please contact the City of Chico at: 530-896-7241 or by email [wood-burning@Chicoca.gov](mailto:wood-burning@Chicoca.gov).**

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 cleaner air.

#### How to "Check Before You Light" (CBYL):

- **Check Our CBYL Hotline:** 332-9409 or toll free at 855-332-9409
- **Check Your E-Mail:**
  - Receive advance Advisory Notification by E-mail: Sign up online at [www.bcaqmd.org](http://www.bcaqmd.org) (Select link for "Check Before You Light" page)
  - Receive an e-mail for Air Quality Forecasts: Sign up online at [www.enviroflash.info/signup.cfm](http://www.enviroflash.info/signup.cfm) (Choose AQI 101 or higher for Advisory Days)
- **Receive Tweets on Twitter:** Follow BCAQMD on Twitter at [twitter.com/bcaqmd](https://twitter.com/bcaqmd) for Advisories
- **Check Our Web Site:** [www.bcaqmd.org](http://www.bcaqmd.org) for Today's Air Quality
- **Check the Media:** Advisories will be issued to newspapers, radio and television stations.

#### Reduce Smoke When You Do Light:

- Use only dry, well-seasoned wood. Properly seasoned wood is darker, has cracks in the grain and weighs less.
- Keep your chimney swept and ash bin clean to improve air flow and reduce smoke.
- Stack wood loosely in your firebox, so plenty of air circulates around it.
- Keep the flame active. Don't let your fire smolder overnight - keep enough air in the fire to maintain a flame.
- Check your chimney regularly to see how well your fire is burning.
- When storing wood, stack it under covering in a dry ventilated area.
- Properly install and maintain your EPA certified wood burning appliance. Your new appliance burns much cleaner and uses less fuel!

Please remember that it is always prohibited to burn household trash, chemically treated or painted wood at anytime. If you have any questions or would like further information please contact Jason Mandly at **332-9400, ext 108**, 7:30am-4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Information is also available on the District website at [www.bcaqmd.org](http://www.bcaqmd.org) and on the District Hotline Number at **332-9409** or toll free at **855-332-9409**.

RELEASE DATE: **December 22, 2020**

\*If you do not wish to receive these advisories, please e-mail [air@bcaqmd.org](mailto:air@bcaqmd.org) with a request for removal from the CBYL distribution list.\*