FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 28, 2020

CHECK BEFORE YOU LIGHT
SEASON ENDS SATURDAY

Contact: Jason Mandly, Senior Air Quality Planner
332-9400 - or – air@bcaqmd.org

The Butte County Air Quality Management District (District) announces the end of the 2019-2020 Check Before You Light Program. Starting Sunday, March 1, 2020, 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 2019-2020 season, there were no Check Before You Light advisories issued in Butte County. Based on preliminary data, there were zero (0) exceedances of the federal 24-hour PM2.5 standard at the Chico monitoring location, zero (0) exceedances at the Paradise monitoring location, and three (3) exceedances at the Gridley monitoring location between November and February.

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.

###