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Voluntary Don't Burn Program

September 10, 2009 – At their September meeting, the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District's Board of Directors approved a lower threshold for the voluntary "Don't Light Tonight" (DLT) program. Beginning this season which runs from November 1 through March 1, a DLT advisory will be sent when the air quality forecast is at 25 micrograms per cubic meter of air for particulate matter. "This is a voluntary program to inform and encourage residents to not use their woodburning appliances such as fireplaces and woodstoves when weather conditions are likely to impact air quality," stated Executive Director Mat Ehrhardt.

Notification of a DLT is available electronically for those who subscribe to Enviroflash. To encourage residents to sign up for this free service, the District will hold a random drawing for a rechargeable electric mower for those that sign up by September 30. Subscribers can sign up and have the information sent to email addresses or cell phones by going to www.ysaqmd.org and clicking on the Enviroflash logo. Only residents within the Yolo-Solano AQMD's jurisdiction will be eligible for the drawing for a rechargeable mower. Those who sign up to receive DLT advisories will also receive alerts when special events such as smoke from wildfires impacts the area.

"Air pollution can seriously affect your health - especially the health of older adults, children and people with a heart or lung disease and respiratory problems like asthma. During the cooler temperature months, particulate matter is a greater concern and can be a neighborhood problem when residents light a woodburning fire," added Ehrhardt.

The Yolo-Solano AQMD is dedicated to protecting human health and property from the harmful effects of air pollution. For more information contact the District at 530-757-3650 or visit www.ysaqmd.org.

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