



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yolo-Solano Air District's Annual 'Don't Light Tonight' Program Begins November 1st

(Davis, CA) - The Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District's (YSAQMD) 'Don't Light Tonight' season officially begins on November 1 and will run through the end of February. This voluntary program asks District residents to refrain from burning wood to help lower particulate matter in the air on days YSAQMD issues advisories.

During winter months, the air can become stagnant and cooler temperatures aid in trapping air pollutants including particulate matter closer to the ground and the air we breathe. Wood smoke contains several toxic, harmful air pollutants including benzene, formaldehyde, carbon monoxide and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). PM_{2.5} is especially unsafe because its small size allows it to bypass the body's natural defenses and travel to the heart, lungs and respiratory systems. Once present, PM_{2.5} can trigger short term health effects like coughing and watery eyes and exacerbate existing conditions such as asthma. Wood smoke can affect anyone, but those most at risk for serious health problems include young children, older adults and those with heart or respiratory problems.

"This year it is especially important to safeguard our health and well-being," stated Public Information Officer Stephanie Holliday, "participating in 'Don't Light Tonight' is a simple way to reduce the impacts of harmful air pollutants on yourself and your neighbors."

The District will issue advisories asking residents not to use their wood stoves or fireplaces when particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) is forecasted to reach 25 micrograms or higher. Areas covered in the advisories include all of Yolo County and a portion of Solano County, including Vacaville, Dixon and Rio Vista.

Residents can check the status of and view 'Don't Light Tonight' advisories by:

- Visiting the District's website at www.ysaqmd.org where 'Don't Light Tonight' advisories will be posted.
- Checking the District's Facebook or Twitter account for advisories.
- Signing up for the District's EnviroFlash service at: <http://ysaqmd.enviroflash.org/> and receive an email when an advisory is called.
- Call (530) 757-3787 for a recorded message with the daily 'Don't Light Tonight' status.

For more information about the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, including information on health impacts, public outreach and to subscribe to the District's quarterly newsletter, visit www.ysaqmd.org. Connect with the District on Facebook at www.facebook.com/YoloSolanoAir or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/YoloSolanoAir.

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Attachment: Don't Light Tonight logo

