



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2018

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Air District's 'Don't Light Tonight' Season Starts November 1

(Davis, CA) – The Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District's yearly 'Don't Light Tonight' (DLT) program officially starts November 1 and runs until the end of February.

'Don't Light Tonight' is a voluntary curtailment program that asks residents to refrain from burning wood on certain days to help lower particulate pollution in the air. During winter months air can become stagnant and circulates less, trapping pollutants and wood smoke close to the ground and the air people breathe.

Wood smoke contains several toxic, harmful air pollutants, such as benzene, formaldehyde, carbon monoxide, and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). PM_{2.5} is especially harmful to residents because its small size can bypass the body's natural defenses and travel through the blood stream, entering the heart, lungs, and respiratory system. As a result, wood smoke can trigger short term health effects, like coughing and watery eyes, and exacerbate existing conditions, such as asthma and heart disease. Wood smoke can affect anyone but those most at risk from wood smoke include older adults, young children, women who are pregnant, and people with lung and heart disease.

The District is asking resident to refrain from burning wood or using wood stoves or fireplaces on days when particulate matter (PM) is forecast to reach 25 micrograms or higher. Areas covered in the advisory include of all of Yolo County and portions of Solano County that encompass Dixon, Vacaville and Rio Vista.

"Many people like the smell of wood smoke but they don't realize its health impacts," said Public Information Officer Jenny Tan. "Wood smoke can trigger asthma attacks, heart attacks, stroke, heart failure and more."

During the 2017-2018 'Don't Light Tonight' season, 22 advisories were issued, up from 11 advisories the previous season. An unusually stable and stagnant weather pattern, slightly warmer temperatures, and last year's wildfires resulted in an accumulation of pollutants and a higher number of advisories. 55% of the days during last year's DLT season were in the 'Good' AQI category, 42% in the 'Moderate' category, and 3% in the 'Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups' category.

Residents can check to see if the District has issued a 'Don't Light Tonight' advisory by:

- Visiting the District's website (www.ysaqmd.org) where a red notification banner will appear at the top of the home page.
- Checking the District's Facebook or Twitter page for advisories (@YoloSolanoAir).
- Signing up for the District's Enviroflash service (<http://ysaqmd.enviroflash.org/>) that will send an email alert when an advisory is issued.
- Calling (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 signing up for air quality alerts and the monthly e-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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