



New Fireplace and Wood Burning Stove Regulations

The South Coast Air Quality Management District adopted Rule 445 on March 7, 2008, to reduce fine particulate pollution from fireplaces and wood stoves.

Effective September 8, 2008: No person shall sell, offer for sale, supply or install a new or used permanently installed indoor or outdoor wood burning device or gaseous-fueled device unless it is one of the following:

- An EPA Phase II-Certified wood burning heater
- A pellet-fueled wood burning heater
- A masonry heater
- A wood burning device or fireplace meeting the EPA particulate matter emission standard established by Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 60, Subpart AAA, Section 60.530
- A dedicated gaseous-fueled fireplace

Effective March 9, 2009: Only fireplaces fueled by gas (such as gas logs) may be installed in a new residential or commercial building. Permanently installed indoor or outdoor wood-burning fireplaces or stoves are not permitted in new construction.

Beginning November 1, 2011: If needed to achieve federal air quality goals, the AQMD may issue mandatory wood-burning curtailments from November through February on days when particulate matter levels are forecast to reach unhealthy levels. To learn if a mandatory curtailment is in effect, residents can call a recorded message or check the AQMD's website. No person shall operate an indoor or outdoor wood burning device or portable outdoor wood burning device when a mandatory wood burning curtailment day is forecast for their specific region. Any person who violates a wood burning curtailment is subject to the following penalties **from the AQMD:** (1) For first time violators during each wood burning season, attendance at a wood smoke awareness course that has been approved by the Executive Officer or payment of a penalty of \$50; (2) For second time violators during each wood burning season, payment of a penalty of \$150 or submission of proof of installation of a dedicated gaseous-fueled fireplace within 90 days after receiving the notice of violation; and (3) For third time violators during each wood burning season, payment of a penalty of \$500 or implementation of an environmentally beneficial project as derived through the mutual settlement process.

For more information about the AQMD's Healthy Hearths initiative, please check the AQMD's web site at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/news1/2008/HealthyHearths.html>

The complete text of AQMD's Rule 445 can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/rules/reg/reg04/r445.pdf>