



629 Entler Avenue, Suite 15
Chico, CA 95928
(530) 332-9400
(530) 332-9417 Fax

W. James Wagoner
Air Pollution Control Officer
Robert McLaughlin
Asst. Air Pollution Control
Officer



Check Before You Light

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 31, 2017

CHECK BEFORE YOU LIGHT SEASON IS HERE

November 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018

Program Contact: Jason Mandly, Associate Air Quality Planner
332-9400, ext 108 or jmandly@bcaqmd.org

During the colder months, certain weather patterns can lead to strong inversions and stagnant air. During these poor air quality episodes, excessive wood-burning can create conditions that are unhealthy for sensitive groups. The Butte County Air Quality Management District (District) will issue a *Check Before You Light* advisory for these days. When an advisory is issued, the District asks that residents voluntarily refrain from using wood-burning devices if possible. You can *Check Before You Light* by visiting butteairquality.com, calling the District Hotline Number at **332-9409** or toll free at **855-332-9409**, and by checking [@bcaqmd](https://twitter.com/bcaqmd) on Twitter.

Important Note: *Woodstove and fireplace use within the Chico City limits on advisory days is restricted by a City ordinance. For more information, please contact the City of Chico at: **530-896-7241** or by email wood-burning@Chicoca.gov.*

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. With your help, wintertime air quality has been improving in Butte County over the past decade.

Reduce Smoke When You Do Light:

- Use only dry, well-seasoned wood. Properly seasoned wood is darker, has cracks in the grain and weighs less.
- Keep your chimney swept and ash bin clean to improve air flow and reduce smoke.
- Stack wood loosely in your firebox, so plenty of air circulates around it.
- Keep the flame active. Don't let your fire smolder overnight - keep enough air in the fire to maintain a flame.
- Check your chimney regularly to see how well your fire is burning.
- When storing wood, stack it under covering in a dry ventilated area.

Please remember that it is always prohibited to burn household trash, chemically treated or painted wood at anytime. If you have any questions or would like further information please contact Jason Mandly at **332-9400, ext 108** during regular business hours Monday through Friday.