



Serving Sutter and Yuba Counties

1007 Live Oak Blvd., Suite B-3
Yuba City, CA 95991
(530) 634-7659
FAX (530) 634-7660
www.fraqmd.org

David A. Valler, Jr.
Air Pollution Control Officer

FACT SHEET DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RULE 3.17 WOOD STOVE HEATING July 20, 2009

Why is the District amending Rule 3.17?

The District is amending this Rule to reduce emissions of particulate matter pollution from residential wood combustion. Particulate matter causes health impacts such as aggravated asthma, irregular heartbeat, and chronic bronchitis. The District is not meeting Federal and California standards for ambient air quality, which means that the air in the Yuba-Sutter Area can be unhealthy, especially during wintertime.

What will the draft amendments require?

The amendments will require that new fireplaces meet the same emission standards as other wood burning stoves. The amendments also prohibit burning unseasoned wood. The amendments also change the voluntary advisory to curtail emissions to an advisory for recommended actions.

How may this impact me?

If you build a home in Yuba or Sutter Counties after the adoption of this rule, you will not be permitted to install an uncontrolled wood burning fireplace. The wood burning fireplace must meet EPA emission standards, or use a certified insert. An alternative would be to install a gas fireplace to provide space heating or an electric fireplace for aesthetic purposes.

If you burn wood as a secondary source of space heating, you may be asked during wintertime months to not burn wood and instead use your primary source of heat when conditions are poor and particulate matter pollution levels are high. The advisory is voluntary, and residents without alternative forms of space heating or economic hardships would not be asked to participate in the voluntary curtailment.

Residential wood burners in Yuba and Sutter Counties will be required to make sure their wood is seasoned prior to burning, and that certified appliances are being operated properly and not excessively smoking.

What is NOT proposed in the amendments to Rule 3.17?

- The amendments will NOT require the replacement of currently installed fireplaces.
- The amendments will NOT impose a mandatory "No Burn" program. The advisory is voluntary.
- The amendments will NOT outlaw wood burning.
- The amendments do NOT impact wood burning stoves. The original Rule 3.17 required wood burning stoves meet EPA emission standards. The District is not amending the emission standards for wood burning stoves.

For more information, please contact Sondra Andersson, Air Quality Planner, at (530) 634-7659 ext 210, or visit the District website at: www.fraqmd.org