

## **RESIDENTIAL NO-BURN ALERT ISSUED FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF LOS ANGELES AIR BASIN TODAY**

February 25, 2014

Residents living in the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area, Orange County and the Inland Empire are not permitted to burn wood in their fireplaces today, Tuesday, February 25, 2014, due to elevated fine particulate levels predicted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD).

Residents in these areas are prohibited from burning wood or manufactured fire logs in their fireplaces from midnight to midnight today.

SCAQMD's no-burn alerts do not apply to mountain communities above 3,000 feet in elevation, the Coachella Valley and the High Desert. Homes that rely on wood as a sole source of heat, low-income households and those without natural gas service also are exempt from the requirement.

On a no-burn day, residents can enter their ZIP code at <http://www.aqmd.gov> to see if they live in an affected area. They can also sign up for daily reports on air quality and Check Before You Burn alerts at <http://airalerts.org> or call SCAQMD's 24-hour 'Check Before You Burn' too-free line at (866) 966-3293.

SCAQMD's 'Check Before You Burn' program, in effect each winter from Nov. 1 to the end of February, is designed to protect public health by minimizing harmful wood smoke from residential wood burning. No-burn alerts are called when air quality is forecast to be elevated due to fine particulate levels (PM2.5). Wood smoke contains hundreds of contaminants including PM2.5, a pollutant linked to increased emergency room visits and hospitalizations, as well as increased risk of heart attacks and early deaths.

For further information on 'Check Before You Burn' and alternatives to wood burning, see [www.healthyhearths.org](http://www.healthyhearths.org).

SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.