



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NO-WOOD BURNING RESTRICTIONS FOR CHICO CITY RESIDENTS
BEGIN NOVEMBER 1, 2011**

In August, the Chico City Council approved an ordinance that restricts the use of woodstoves and fireplaces by Chico residents on poor air quality days as determined by the Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD) through its “Check Before You Light” program. The program will run from November through February each year. The program is mandatory for city of Chico residents on no-burn advisory days only, and the City is seeking the public’s cooperation with this new ordinance.

There are, however, exemptions to the mandatory restrictions if one or more of the following criteria are met:

1. The wood burning device is a U.S. EPA Phase II certified wood stove or is a pellet stove.
2. The wood burning device is the sole source of interior heat.
3. Electrical power is not available during times of temporary service outages.
4. The household obtains a waiver from the restrictions due to an economic hardship. A waiver will be issued if the monthly household income is 80% or less than the median income for the area, adjusted for household size, as defined by the Federal Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

To obtain an exemption or waiver, contact the City at 530-896-7800 or by email at woodburning@ci.chico.ca.us.

Chimney smoke from residential wood burning is a major source of winter time air pollution in Butte County, and particularly in Chico. The microscopic particles in this smoke have been linked to serious health illnesses and injury for sensitive groups. When burning on nonadvisory days, you can help clean the air by reducing smoke in the following ways:

- Using only dry, well-seasoned wood, and stacking stored wood in a covered, dry, ventilated area.
- Keeping your chimney swept and ash bin clean
- Stacking the wood loosely in your firebox to improve air flow.
- Keeping the flame active and not letting it smolder, especially over night.
- Checking your chimney regularly to see how well your fire is burning.

For more information regarding the City's mandatory program, call (530) 896-7800 or visit the City's website at www.ci.chico.ca.us. Visit the BCAQMD website at www.bcaqmd.org, to check the no-burn status, to sign up to receive email and twitter notifications of the "Check Before You Light" advisories, or to learn more about the health hazards of wood burning. Residents can also check for advisories by calling the burn hotline at (530) 332-9409, or checking with the local media.

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