

**KERN COUNTY  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT  
(KCAPCD)**

**“SERVING EASTERN KERN COUNTY”**

**H**ELP  
**E**RADICATE  
**L**UNG  
**P**OLLUTION!

**U**NDERCUT  
**S**MOKE!

A Campaign To Reduce Smoke  
From Wood Burning  
Fireplaces, Stoves and Heaters

“Use ‘Em, But Keep ‘Em Clean!”

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Distributed in East Kern  
Mountain Communities by KCAPCD  
(661) 862-5250

It is Kern County Air Pollution Control District's job to protect public health by insuring everyone has clean air to breathe. But we can't do it alone, we need everyone's help!

### **Purpose of Campaign:**

The purpose of our campaign is to reduce smoke from wood burning fireplaces, stoves and heaters by encouraging everyone who owns and operates one of these devices to follow five procedures which promote good combustion. The result will be a more healthful environment for young and old alike.

### **The Problem:**

Wood fuel can be made to burn quite cleanly, but if certain precautions aren't taken, it can really smoke! That's bad for air quality and public health.

If you allow your fireplace, stove or heater to smoke, you'll be polluting our air with:

- \* Particulates (soot) - small particles of unburned wood which can travel deep into your lungs and cause respiratory problems.
- \* Carbon Monoxide - a gas which, in large doses, can kill by drastically reducing your blood's oxygen content.

In smaller doses, it can cause headaches and nausea.

- \* Air Toxics - poisonous gases and particles which form because of incomplete combustion. This includes aldehydes, the substance which causes smoke to burn your eyes.

### **The Solution:**

Everyone loves to sit in front of a crackling fireplace or near a cozy wood stove or heater and we're not suggesting you stop, but **please keep smoke to a minimum by:**

- \* **Using good fuel** - use only seasoned, clean wood that's free of bark, if possible. NEVER use household trash or garbage! (It not only smokes, but it doesn't put out much heat and it really stinks!)
- \* **Never overloading the firebox** - use a moderate amount of wood, a "friendly blaze" is a lot nicer than a "roaring fire".
- \* **Providing good combustion** - split your wood into pieces no more than about four inches in "diameter" and adjust the dampers to maintain a clean flame. (Brave the cold and check your chimney for smoke every so often.)

- \* **Tending your fire** - "stoke" your fire occasionally. It's fun to roll those logs over and watch them flame up, but be careful and don't let a youngster help unless he's big enough to carry an armful of logs! Try to keep about the same amount of wood burning at all times until you're finished.
- \* **Keeping your unit clean** - keep the firebox clean by removing ashes often. Have the chimney swept every two or three years.

### **Thank You!**

Thanks for being part of the solution to one of our air quality problems. You and everyone else will breathe easier.

### **More You Can Do If You Want To...**

If you are lucky enough to have the resources, you might want to invest in a U.S. EPA/Oregon-certified fireplace or wood burning stove. These replacement units are designed to burn cleanly and produce little smoke. Pellet stoves are a good bet, too! It's up to you.

For more information about U.S. EPA/Oregon-certified devices or ways to reduce air pollution, call us at (661) 862-5250.