

Butte County
Air Quality Management District
AIR CARE NEWS BULLETIN

June 18, 2009

What's been happening? At the February 26, 2009 Board meeting staff was directed to review and evaluate the Chico City Council recommendations regarding Rule 208 - *Mandatory Wood Burning Curtailment Periods* and bring a revised draft rule back to the Board for further discussion and direction from the Board. The Board will not adopt Rule 208 at the June meeting. The District will present the revised Rule 208 at the June 25, 2009 meeting. District Board meetings are held at the Chico City Council Chambers, at 10:15, 411 Main Street, Chico.

The Council recommended the following changes to the proposed Rule 208:

1. Exempt EPA Phase II certified wood and pellet stoves from Rule 208.
2. "No wood burning curtailment periods" to be based on a PM_{2.5} limit of 25 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) on average within a 24-hour period instead of the 41 ug/m³ currently in use for the voluntary **Check Before You Light** program. (PM_{2.5} is fine particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter).
3. Expand the area affected by Rule 208 to include the densely populated unincorporated areas in Butte County that are adjacent and contiguous to the Chico sphere of influence.
4. Add a provision to Rule 208 to review the effectiveness of the Mandatory Curtailment Period Prohibition one-year from the implementation date to determine whether EPA certified wood burning devices should be phased into the prohibition.
5. Require a visible emission limit into Rule 208 (20% opacity) to help ensure proper use of all wood burning devices.
6. The Council also recommended that the District take the lead in investigating a regional Air Quality Mitigation Fee Program in which funds generated would be used as incentives to replace existing non-EPA certified woodstoves and implement other air quality mitigation efforts.

Other areas of analysis in the status report include a wood burning registration program, city/county ordinance adoption, District enforcement program, District program costs, coordination of mandatory curtailment periods and agricultural/residential burning, and hardship waiver.

What's new? Revised Draft Rule 208 – *Mandatory Wood Burning Curtailment Periods* and status report are accessible for public review and comment. Copies are available by request or on the website at <http://www.bcaqmd.org/page/woodstoves-and-fireplaces.php>.

Grant Options/Incentives:

The District is working with the City of Chico, the County Housing Authority and Community Action Agency who are expected recipients of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants Program funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The District is seeking funding for a woodstove rebate program which could incentivize residents to purchase a certified wood burning device or remove a non-certified device. The focus would be the Chico sphere of influence area and could include additional areas of the County if funding from the County is provided.

Another part of the 2009 Economic Stimulus legislation includes a 30% tax credit (up to \$1,500) for the purchase in 2009 and 2010 of a 75% efficient wood burning device. Most, if not all of the new wood burning devices manufactured meet the 75% efficiency. Contact your local wood stove retailer for more information

What's next? After receiving the revised rule and status report, staff requests the Board provide direction as appropriate. Staff recommends releasing the proposed new rule in July, conduct public workshops in August and September, and schedule an adoption hearing in September or October.

Why is this necessary? The residents of Butte County want healthful air, and must have the ability to heat their homes. The District is dedicated to finding solutions to balance these interests so that our communities can meet the State and federal health-based air standards.

How can I get more information? If you have questions or comments, please contact the District at 891-2882 ext. 105 or toll-free (888) 891-2882, or online at www.bcaqmd.org.

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