

How Does Woodsmoke Impact the Bay Area?



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT



Woodsmoke is among the largest sources of fine particulate matter, or PM_{2.5}, emissions in the Bay Area.

PM_{2.5} emissions from residential wood burning in the Bay Area could be responsible for 94–210 premature deaths annually.

94–210
Premature
Deaths

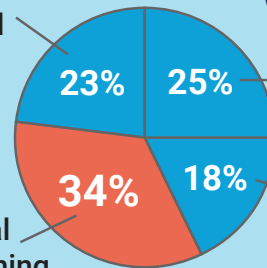
34%

of human-caused PM_{2.5} emissions in the Bay Area in wintertime come from wood burning.



Mobile Sources
(Incl. Road
Dust)

Residential
Wood Burning



Peak Months
(Dec–Jan)

Other Area
Sources

Permitted
Facility
Sources



76% of active wood burning devices are fireplaces.



24% of active wood burning devices are wood stoves.

1% of active devices are the sole source of heat in a household.

1,625

Woodsmoke complaints
per year, on average





The Air District has published a Woodsmoke White Paper detailing our current understanding of woodsmoke emissions in the Bay Area. The Woodsmoke White Paper provides extensive information on wood burning in the Bay Area, the current state of the regulatory landscape for wood-burning devices, and a discussion of potential recommendations to further minimize woodsmoke emissions and exposures, including the following two policies:

1

Consider lowering the wood burning ban PM_{2.5} concentration trigger threshold to a lower, more health-protective level.



Staff recommends maintaining the current burn ban exemptions for sole source of heat, loss of utility service, and temporary non-functional heater.

2

Consider a policy that accelerates the retirement and turnover of dirtier wood burning devices.



Staff seeks input on the level of stringency and mechanism for this type of policy.

Additional information on the data and recommendations provided here can be found in the Woodsmoke White Paper: www.baaqmd.gov/rules-and-compliance/rule-development/woodsmoke

Staff requests comments and questions about the Woodsmoke White Paper. Interested parties are invited to submit questions or comments on the Woodsmoke White Paper to Rule Development at woodsmokerule@baaqmd.gov.

The deadline to submit comments on these materials is **Monday, January 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**

For more information on the Air District's woodsmoke program or policy initiatives, please visit www.baaqmd.gov/woodsmoke.



www.sparetheair.org



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

www.baaqmd.gov
woodsmokerule@baaqmd.gov