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## “DON’T LIGHT TONIGHT” SEASON BEGINS NOVEMBER 1

October 13, 2008 – **Don’t Light Tonight** season begins November 1 and the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District is encouraging all residents who use a wood burning appliance in their home to sign up for EnviroFlash, a free air quality notification system. “Don’t Light Tonight” advisories will automatically be sent out one day in advance when particle pollution is forecasted to reach 35 micrograms per cubic meter of air or greater. These advisories ask that residents forego a wood burning fire in order to help reduce pollution from wood smoke, a contributing factor to particle pollution during winter months.

To receive notification, either through email addresses or cell phones, participants must register at <http://ysaqmd.enviroflash.org>. These notifications are for residents of Yolo County and the northeast portion of Solano County (Vacaville, Dixon and Rio Vista) and will provide air quality readings from monitors closest to their zip code.

“With cooperation from residents, we can have an effective voluntary program that will protect public health from the harmful effects of wood smoke,” according to Mat Ehrhardt, executive director for the Yolo-Solano AQMD.

Meteorologists develop air quality forecasts using actual air quality data along with weather forecast information. These forecasts are then translated into a simple color-coded key (the Air Quality Index or AQI) that illustrates how healthy or unhealthy the air is (see below).

Air Quality Index	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0-50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no
Moderate	51-100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151-200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201-300	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.
Hazardous	> 300	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.

The Yolo-Solano AQMD is a public health agency dedicated to protecting human health from the harmful effects of air pollution. For more information, visit [www.ysaqmd.org](http://www.ysaqmd.org) or call (800) 287-3650 or (530) 757-3650.