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Using Technology to Keep the Air Clean

November 10, 2009 – In addition to **Enviroflash**, an electronic notification for air quality advisories during ‘Don’t Light Tonight’ season, the Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District has added a dedicated phone line, 530-757-3787, for residents who prefer to call in for the daily status on the voluntary program. “If someone is considering lighting a fire this winter, we encourage them to call first to see if an advisory has been issued,” said Executive Director Mat Ehrhardt. “With two methods of getting the word out, we hope everyone will cooperate and adhere to these advisories.”

The District reminds residents that particulate matter pollution, also known as PM 2.5, can seriously affect your health. During the months when some homes are heated by woodstoves and fireplaces, particulate matter pollution can increase. The District’s voluntary program, ‘Don’t Light Tonight,’ advises residents to refrain from woodburning on nights when weather conditions in combination with wood smoke can create an unhealthy environment. In order to better protect public health, this year a voluntary advisory will be issued when air quality is forecasted to reach 25 micrograms per cubic meter of air or greater, a lower threshold than last year’s 35 micrograms.

For those that prefer to receive electronic notifications, sign up at www.ysaqmd.org and click on the **EnviroFlash** logo. The ‘Don’t Light Tonight’ program runs from November through February and residents will be notified one day in advance when an advisory is in effect. In addition to adhering to the voluntary program, the District encourages using an EPA Phase II certified woodburning appliance if heating your home with wood. These newer appliances burn cleaner and more efficiently than an open hearth fireplace or older stoves.

The Yolo-Solano AQMD, a public health agency which serves all of Yolo County and the northeast portion of Solano County, is dedicated to protecting human health and property from the harmful effects of air pollution. For more information contact the District at 530-757-3650 or toll free at (800) 287-3650 or visit www.ysaqmd.org.

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