

	<p style="text-align: center;">Land Use Services Building and Safety Division Information Bulletin</p>	<p>Number: IB-0010</p> <p>Code References: SCAQMD Rule 445 CGBSC Section 4.503.1 2025 CRC 2025 CGBSC</p>
Building Official Signature: 	Maged Soliman, PE, CBO	Original Effective Date: May 13, 2019
Subject: New Wood-Burning Devices within SCAQMD Boundary		Updated: January 1, 2026

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to clarify local requirements related to the construction of new fireplaces or wood-burning devices within the county as adopted in the San Bernardino County Code of Ordinances. The requirements identify selected South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 445, but it may not identify all applicable requirements; the user of this handout must comply with all code requirements. All California Codes are available online at www.bsc.ca.gov.

2.0 HISTORY

Original Effective Date: May 13, 2019; Updated: January 1, 2026

3.0 POLICY/PROCEDURE

AUTHORITY

The information provided in this handout is a summary of the fireplace requirements contained in the California Residential Code (CRC) Chapter 10 Section 1004, California Green Building Standard Code Chapter 4 Section 4.503.1, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 445 Section (d)(2) as amended May 3, 2019 and the San Bernardino County Code of Ordinances.

DEFINITIONS

WOOD-BURNING DEVICE means any fireplace, wood-burning heater, pellet-fueled wood-burning heater, or any similarly open or enclosed, permanently installed, indoor or outdoor device burning any wood-based fuel for aesthetic purposes, which has a heat input of less than one million British thermal units per hour (Btu/hr).

ADOPTED STANDARDS

A. Proposed construction where wood-burning devices are incorporated in the design features shall comply with CGBSC Section 4.503.1 and SCAQMD Rule 445 Section (d)(2) stated as follows:

No person shall sell; offer for sale, supply, or install, a new or used permanently installed indoor or outdoor wood-burning device or gaseous-fueled device unless it is one of the following:

- (a) A U.S. EPA Certified wood-burning heater; or
- (b) A pellet-fueled wood-burning heater; or
- (c) A masonry heater; or
- (d) A dedicated gaseous-fueled fireplace.

B. Rule 445 Section (d)(2) shall apply to all projects proposed for construction within the boundaries of SCAQMD including those as described in Rule 445 Section (f)(2) for proposed new wood-burning devices 3,000 feet above mean sea level. In those cases, only wood-burning devices described in Section A above shall be permitted.