

San Bernardino Fireplace & Woodstove
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August 3, 2011

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: Docket # 10-BSTD-01

Dear Mazi Shirakh,

With all the concerns over our environment and using our resources wisely, we do appreciate and applaud your work and efforts to increase the energy efficiency of the Building Energy Efficiency Standards to meet the AB 32 goals.

San Bernardino Fireplace & Woodstove is a family owned business located in San Bernardino since 1914. We have 3 to 5 employees and 3 installers we work closely with. We are a proud member of the Hearth, Patio and BBQ Association (HPBA) the national trade association for Hearth (fireplace) products.

Every year with the increasing concern over our environment and using our energy more efficiently, the sales of vented gas burning heating appliances have increased for us. Between the 4 primary brands that we sell, we have over 65 vented gas burning, space heating hearth appliances, from built-in fireplaces to fireplace inserts available to our customers. We currently display 13 operating vented heaters in our showroom in San Bernardino.


Many of our customers are turning from heating the whole house with their old furnace to the efficiency, convenience, and beauty of a vented gas burning hearth appliance. They want the warmth and comfort where they live and a cooler sleeping space. They do treat the heating and cooling aspects of their home separately.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District's implementation of Rule 445 affects Orange County and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties (approximately 16.8 million people). Those that live below 3000 feet above sea level can no longer install a wood burning appliance in the home they are building or remodeling. Only a gas burning appliance will be accepted. People with a wood burning appliance that was already installed before Rule 445 will face Mandatory No Burn Days starting this fall.

For example, in Lake Arrowhead, the snow country above San Bernardino, Mr. & Mrs. Blatt wanted to upgrade their existing inefficient wood burning fireplace to something convenient, beautiful and efficient. They purchased a vented gas insert. Instead of heating the whole house the Blatt's now heat the area they live in and more. This keeps their old furnace from running like it used to. The savings allows them to let the insert burn all the time during the snow season.

With the increased demand for these efficient gas burning space heaters it is even more important that the ability to model two or more zones in the living area remain in the compliance software.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Harman
Manager

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