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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Local libraries have moisture meters to test firewood
2 moisture content

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 With the home heating season here, those who heat with
6 wood may be wondering if their firewood is dry and ready to
7 burn. Vermonters can check out a moisture meter for free from
8 several local public libraries. This is thanks to a statewide loan
9 program from the Department of Libraries and the Department of
10 Environmental Conservation (DEC).

11 Using this small, hand-held device, one can make sure
12 firewood is dry (with 20% moisture or less) before burning. Dry,
13 seasoned wood burns hotter and cleaner than wet wood, saving
14 both money and energy while making less smoke.

15 "To prevent poor air quality and safeguard public health,
16 it is key to follow proper wood burning practices, said DEC
17 Commissioner Misty Sinsigalli in a news release. "Using dry,
18 seasoned wood reduces smoke, cuts air emissions, and protects
19 our families, neighbors, and the environment."

20 During the wintertime, residential wood smoke is a main
21 contributor to fine particle pollution and contributes to poor air
22 quality days, especially on calm, clear, and cold winter nights.

23 Fine particle pollution consists of particles less than 2.5
24 micrometers in diameter, also known as PM2.5. Fine particles are
25 so small they can be inhaled and cause serious health problems.
26 Fine particles are also the main cause of reduced visibility (haze)
27 in scenic areas.

28 Participating libraries include Brooks Memorial Library in
29 Brattleboro, Whiting Library in Chester, Moore Free Library in
30 Newfane, Putney Public Library, Rockingham Free Public Library,
31 Springfield Town Library, Townshend Public Library, Vernon Free
32 Library, and Butterfield Library in Westminster.

33 For more information about the moisture meter loan
34 program, visit bit.ly/844-meter.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

36 0

####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

37

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

####BEGIN VIDEO####

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####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

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