

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 2, 2019

## **SWCAA has Lifted the Clark County Stage 2 Burn Ban**

**VANCOUVER, WA.** – Due to improved air quality and a forecast calling for increasing southerly winds, the Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) is removing the Burn Ban currently in place for Clark County. Residents may once again use their wood stoves and fireplaces, but are asked to burn as cleanly as possible. Weather forecasters expect the stagnant conditions to lift this evening and south winds to increase improving ventilation in the metro area. SWCAA sincerely thanks all who observed the burn ban.

For those who heat with wood, please remember that it is always illegal to produce excess chimney smoke and to smoke out your neighbor. We ask that if people must burn, that they use only dry, seasoned firewood and follow clean burning practices. You are burning properly when you do not see any smoke coming from your chimney. For more information about cleaner wood burning techniques, or to subscribe for email notification of burn bans and advisories please visit <http://www.swcleanair.org/burning>.

In areas of Clark County where burning has not been permanently banned, outdoor burning will again be allowed with the proper permits. However, burning at any time adds to the air pollution levels in your local community, and residents are encouraged to seek alternatives to burning throughout the year. When outdoor burning does take place please note that only natural vegetation may be burned and a smoke nuisance may not be caused. Burn permits require residents to call the burn line prior to burning to ensure that a burn ban is not in effect. State law prohibits the burning of garbage, plastics, home-repair debris, and other prohibited materials at any time. Burn barrels of any kind are also prohibited by state law.

Founded in 1968, the mission of the Southwest Clean Air Agency is to preserve and enhance the air quality in southwest Washington. Serving the counties of Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania and Wahkiakum, SWCAA is responsible for protecting the public's health through the enforcement of federal, state and local air quality standards and regulations.

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