

Air Quality Improves as Stagnant Weather Passes

Agency thanks those who voluntarily postponed wood burning activities.

VANCOUVER, Wash. – The Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) is now lifting the Air Stagnation Advisories that called on residents of Cowlitz and Lewis Counties to voluntarily postpone their wood burning activities. A low pressure system has moved in over western Washington bringing some precipitation and improved ventilation allowing better mixing and clearing of air pollutants such as wood smoke. Forecasters currently expect favorable conditions to prevail through the weekend and into next week. SWCAA sincerely thanks all who observed the advisories.

Even during more favorable weather conditions the Southwest Clean Air Agency encourages everyone who heats their homes with wood to burn as clean as possible, using only dry, seasoned firewood and being mindful smoke impacts on their neighbors. Proper burning practices should produce no visible smoke from the chimney. For clean burning tips and to subscribe for email notifications of burn bans and advisories visit www.swcleanair.org/burnclean.html.

Outside of Urban Growth Areas where outdoor burning is allowed it should only be conducted with a proper permit as required, without causing a smoke nuisance and burning only natural vegetation.

Fine particles released by smoke from wood stoves, fireplaces, outdoor burning and automobiles are of concern because they can reach deep into the lungs. Air pollution can trigger asthma attacks, cause difficulty breathing and make lung and heart problems worse. Air pollution is

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especially harmful to children, people with heart and lung problems and adults over age 65.

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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