



# News Release

**Headline:** SWCAA issues air pollution advisory for all of Southwest Washington including Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania and Wahkiakum Counties.

**Release Date:** Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017

Increasing ozone levels in Clark County with continued hot weather, along with intrusions of wildfire smoke and stagnant conditions throughout Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania and Wahkiakum Counties today and into next week have triggered Southwest Clean Air Agency to issue an air pollution advisory. This advisory, for wildfire smoke throughout southwest Washington and ground-level ozone (smog) in Vancouver is expected to last through Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. However, above-90 temperatures and wildfires which contribute to deteriorating air quality levels are expected to linger through next week.

Current air quality information is available on the web:

<http://www.swcleanair.org/burning/airquality.asp>

The Air Quality Index rates air quality based on labels of “good” (0 to 50, green), “moderate” (51 to 100, yellow), “unhealthy for sensitive groups” (101-150, orange), and “unhealthy” (151-200, red), and “very unhealthy” (201 to 300, deep red). Any reading above 300 is “hazardous.” Ozone levels are expected to increase into the “unhealthy for sensitive groups” range at several locations in the Vancouver metropolitan area.

The advisory simply means that local residents are urged to protect their health and help improve air quality by reducing pollution from cars, mowers, paint and aerosol sprays. Commuters should consider taking public transportation or carpooling to work instead of driving, if possible. Smog-sensitive people, and those sensitive to wildfire smoke, should limit outdoor activities. This group includes older adults, children and people suffering from asthma or lung disease. The Washington Department of Health offers detailed information on how residents can best deal with smoke impacts on their homes and communities.

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/AirQuality/SmokeFromFires>

Pollution levels peak in the late afternoon and early evening. If you have asthma or other breathing problems, follow your health care provider’s advice. Children and the elderly and especially those people with respiratory illnesses are the most at risk of serious health effects and should limit outdoor activities.

Here are ways you can help sensitive people in your community by reducing air pollution:

- Avoid any type of burning
- Avoid unnecessary engine idling
- Refuel your vehicle during cooler evening hours
- Limit driving by combining errands or using public transportation
- Don't use gas-powered mowers and yard equipment
- Don't paint or use aerosol sprays

Businesses can help by encouraging employees to carpool, take the bus or telecommute on advisory days.

On very hot summer days pollution from cars, other gas-powered engines and smog-producing chemicals in paints and aerosol sprays can create unhealthy levels of smog. Smog and smoke irritates the eyes, nose and lungs, and contributes to breathing problems, reduced lung function and asthma.

For information about using C-TRAN or other transportation options in Vancouver area, call 360-695-0123, or visit [www.c-tran.com](http://www.c-tran.com)

For weather information visit the National Weather Service website at: [www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)

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