



Maricopa County
Air Quality Department



HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORY

EFFECTIVE: Friday, Dec. 31

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for Friday, Dec. 31 for fine Particulate Matter-2.5.

The HPA is being issued because colder air will settle into the Valley through the weekend, creating a strong inversion which is expected to trap pollutants near the surface, resulting in poor air quality. New Year's Eve is expected to see a significant boost in fireplace and outdoor fire pit usage, especially in light of the very cold weather.

The Maricopa County Air Quality Department also will issue a "No Burn Day" restriction for Friday (and likely Saturday) for residences and businesses and will send inspectors into the community to enforce the restriction. This restriction also includes individuals and businesses that have burn permits for open burning.

"The increase in air pollution from wood burning can have serious impacts on people's health, especially those with asthma and other respiratory diseases," said ADEQ Acting Director Henry Darwin. "Because of the expected conditions, we are asking Valley residents to help keep the air clean and find alternatives to wood burning fires, such as natural gas, and to drive as little as possible on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day."

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems limit outdoor activities and that the general public minimize outdoor activity on Friday and Saturday.

The Maricopa County Trip Reduction program and Valley Metro Business Services request employers activate their HPA Plan. Residents and employers are asked to use these tips to help make the air healthier to breathe:

- Eliminate fireplace and wood stove use.
- Drive as little as possible: car pool, use public transit or telecommute. For information on transportation alternatives, visit Valley Metro: www.valleymetro.org.
- Recreational off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is prohibited during the advisory period.
- The use of leaf blowers on governmental properties is prohibited during the advisory period.
- Avoid using gas-powered lawn and garden equipment.
- Avoid activities that generate dust, such as driving on dirt roads.
- Stabilize loose soils.

PARTICULATE MATTER BACKGROUND: State and county agencies measure PM-10 and PM-2.5, which are extremely small solid particles and liquid droplets found circulating in the air. PM, or particulate matter, comes from either combustion (cars, industry, woodburning) or dust stirred up into the



air. High levels of PM are typically created when the air is especially stagnant or especially windy. PM-10 stands for particulate matter measuring 10 microns or less. PM-2.5 stands for particulate matter measuring 2.5 microns or less. To put this in perspective, one strand of human hair is 70-100 microns in size.

WHO'S WHO?

The **Arizona Department of Environmental Quality [ADEQ]** provides a daily forecast for air quality. When conditions exist, ADEQ will issue high pollution advisories, health watches and alerts. Daily air quality forecasts are on ADEQ's Web site at www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/ozone/ensemble.pdf or by calling (602)771-2367. Those interested in receiving the air quality forecast via email can subscribe to ADEQ's forecast list at www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html and text alerts at www.azdeq.gov/sms.html

The **Maricopa County Air Quality Department** issues No Burn Day restrictions based on a High Pollution Advisory or Health Watch. These No Burn Day restrictions typically occur during the winter months. To find out if any burn restrictions are in place, call (602) 506-6400 or visit www.cleanairmakemore.com. Information is given in both English and Spanish.

To learn more about the Maricopa County residential woodburning restriction ordinance, view a copy on our website www.maricopa.gov/aq. Click on the direct link to the residential woodburning restriction ordinance: http://www.maricopa.gov/aq/divisions/planning_analysis/rules/docs/rwro9911.pdf

Valley Metro/RPTA provides eco-friendly public transit options to residents of greater Phoenix and Maricopa County, including a clean-fuel bus fleet, low-emissions light rail, online carpool matching and bus trip mapping, and bicycle and telecommuting assistance. Funding is provided by local, state and federal revenues and administered by a board of 15 governments working to improve and regionalize the public transit system. www.ValleyMetro.org

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