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ADEQ Officials Announce Release of New Coloring Book for Children to Learn About Air Pollution, Take Precautions

PHOENIX (Dec. 21, 2012) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today the release of a new coloring book entitled “Winter in the Desert” as a tool for students to learn about air pollution and to take preventative actions and become good environmental stewards.

The book is a collaborative effort among ADEQ’s Office of Children’s Environmental Health, Maricopa County Air Quality Department and Phoenix Center for the Arts and copies can be downloaded at http://www.azdeq.gov/ceh/download/winter_air_colorbook-web.pdf.

The book is being released at this time because the Phoenix metropolitan area typically has its highest levels annually of smoke from woodburning fireplaces, stoves and chimineas during the holiday season. As a result of the high smoke levels, repeated high pollution advisories and health watches are issued this time of the year by ADEQ and “No-Burn Days” by Maricopa County Air Quality Department.

“This coloring book is something fun for children to do while at the same time providing a good story that’s instructive about protecting human health and the environment,” said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin. “This is of foremost importance this time of the year because of the historical problems with Particulate Matter-2.5 during the holiday season.”

For more information, daily ADEQ air quality forecasts for the Phoenix metropolitan area are available at <http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/ozone/ensemble.pdf> and to find out if a no-burn day has been issued, go to <http://www.maricopa.gov/aq/>.