



Maricopa County
Air Quality Department



HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORY

EFFECTIVE: Monday, Dec. 24

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for Monday, Dec. 24 for fine Particulate Matter-2.5.

The HPA is being issued because several weather disturbances entering Arizona are expected to produce winds only north of the Valley. Because of the burning of wood in fireplaces and other devices to celebrate the holiday season, the smoke has produced unhealthy air quality conditions in the Valley in five of the last six years.

The Maricopa County Air Quality Department also issued a “No Burn Day” restriction for Monday 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.

“This is a big weekend for the Valley with many recreational activities,” Maricopa County Air Quality Department Director Bill Wiley said. “Woodburning restrictions are in place to protect our health. Please do your part to avoid adding more pollution to our air and do not light a woodburning fire over the holiday weekend.”

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

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 or health watches. Please visit www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/ozone/ensemble.pdf or call (602) 771-2367. To receive the air quality forecast via email and/or text message please visit www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html

The **Maricopa County Air Quality Department** is a regulatory agency whose goal is to ensure federal clean air standards are achieved and maintained for the residents and visitors of Maricopa County. The department is governed by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and follows air quality standards set forth by the federal Clean Air Act. The department offers air quality information and resources on its Clean Air Make More website. Please visit www.CleanAirMakeMore.com to learn more.

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 telework assistance. Funding is provided by local, state and federal revenues; and administered by a board of 16 governments working to improve and regionalize the public transit system. Please visit www.ValleyMetro.org to learn more.

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