



Maricopa County
Air Quality Department

HEALTH WATCH ADVISORY

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has issued an air quality Health Watch for the Phoenix metro area Wednesday, Dec. 31, and will likely escalate the watch to a High Pollution Advisory through New Year's Day, Jan. 1, for fine Particulate Matter-2.5 (soot).

The Maricopa County Air Quality Department has designated Wednesday a No Burn Day, which means wood burning fires are prohibited. County air quality officials anticipate No Burn restrictions will also be in effect on Jan. 1 if a Health Watch or a High Pollution Advisory is called.

The Health Watch is being issued because significant levels of soot are expected from fireplace wood burning. A Health Watch means that the concentration of PM_{2.5} may approach the federal health standard for this pollutant. ADEQ recommends that unusually sensitive people, such as people with heart or lung disease, older adults and children, should reduce prolonged activity or heavy exertion, especially when outdoors on Wednesday and Thursday. A High Pollution Advisory would extend such precautions to the general population.

"While the forecast calls for rain throughout the afternoon Wednesday, models predict that the rain and poor weather conditions will relent in the early evening," said ADEQ Air Quality Division Director Eric Massey. "History shows a tremendous increase in wood burning throughout the evening of New Year's Eve, leading to high concentrations of air pollution throughout the night and next day."

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

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