



Maricopa County
Air Quality Department



HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORY

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for Tuesday, January 1, 2013 for Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5.

This HPA is being issued because ADEQ forecasters are expecting clearing skies, light winds, and very cold temperatures through the Phoenix metropolitan area late tonight, leading to poor or marginal dispersion through Tuesday morning. Historically, wood-burning activities have led to high concentrations of smoke in the Phoenix area increasing the probability that smoke will accumulate leading to high to unhealthy PM-2.5 (fine particle) concentrations.

As a result, the Maricopa County Air Quality Department is enforcing the mandatory "No Burn Day" restriction for Maricopa County from midnight to midnight Tuesday, January 1, 2013. Residents and businesses must refrain from burning wood in fireplaces, woodstoves or outdoor fire pits during this 24-hour period. This restriction includes individuals and businesses who have burn permits for open burning.

"We understand how much people enjoy using their fireplaces, especially during a holiday. However, when so many do it and our weather is stagnant, the air becomes unhealthy," Maricopa County Air Quality Director Bill Wiley said. "That is why we call "No Burn "days. Please do your part and not light a woodburning fire."

This HPA also includes the following restrictions:

- Contractors cannot use leaf blowers on governmental properties on HPA days.
- Hotels, restaurants and residents must refrain from burning wood in their indoor fireplaces and outdoor fire pits during a HPA. Open burning is also restricted.
- Off-highway vehicles are prohibited from being used during a PM-10 HPA.

"ADEQ's forecasters are expecting marginal to poor dispersion of air pollution on Tuesday," said Eric Massey, Director of Air Quality for ADEQ. "Coupled with the freeze warning and the expected repeat of historical concentrations of smoke, ADEQ has determined that a High Pollution Advisory is necessary."

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities on Tuesday, January 1, 2013, and suggests the general public limit outdoor activity throughout the day.

Valley Metro requests employers activate their HPA Plan. Residents and employers are asked to use these tips to help make the air healthier to breathe:

- Eliminate wood burning in fireplaces, stoves, chimineas and outdoor fire pits.
- Drive as little as possible: car pool, use public transit or telecommute. For information on transportation alternatives, visit Valley Metro: www.valleymetro.org.
- Avoid using leaf blowers.
- Avoid activities that generate dust, such as driving on dirt roads.
- To learn more about the air you're breathing, visit: www.CleanAirMakeMore.com

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

CONTACT: Mark Shaffer – (602) 771-2215 desk / (480) 433-9551 cell

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.

CONTACT: Bob Huhn – (602) 506-6713 desk / (602) 526-7307 cell

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.

CONTACT: Susan Tierney – (602) 523-6004 desk / (602) 292-4093 cell

