



Maricopa County
Air Quality Department



HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORY

EFFECTIVE: Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Wednesday, Jan. 1

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality announced today it is extending today's High Pollution Advisory for fine Particulate Matter-2.5 (soot) through Wednesday, Jan. 1.

The Maricopa County Air Quality Department is also issuing a "No Burn Day" restriction through Wednesday 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 HPA is being issued because significant levels of PM-2.5 are expected from fireplace wood burning during New Year's Eve and New Year's Day celebrations. Wood burning, coupled with air stagnation and inversion, will trap soot close to the surface, making breathing difficult for people with respiratory problems as well as the general public. ADEQ recommends limiting outdoor activities while the High Pollution Advisory is in effect on Tuesday Wednesday.

ADEQ and MCAQD are currently conducting a "No Burn Day? Don't Burn Wood!" campaign to make Maricopa County residents aware of the serious health threat that soot poses. Lower concentrations of soot on Christmas Eve and Christmas day last week may indicate people are burning less this year, according to ADEQ Air Quality Director Eric Massey.

"Meteorology has a lot to do with the concentrations we see from year to year. While it's encouraging that we had lower concentrations of soot on the holidays last week, we still exceeded EPA's health based standard in areas of the Valley on both days. So, clearly, more work needs to be done," Massey said.

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.



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

Media contacts:

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality [ADEQ]

Mark Shaffer - 602-771-2215 desk / 480-433-9551 cell

Maricopa County Air Quality Department

Bob Huhn – 602-506-6713 desk / 602-526-7307 cell

Valley Metro

Susan Tierney - 602-262-4668 desk / 602-292-4093 cell