



**Maricopa County**  
Air Quality Department



## HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORY

**EFFECTIVE: Saturday, Jan. 12 and Sunday, Jan. 13**

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for Saturday, Jan. 12 and Sunday, Jan. 13 for fine Particulate Matter-2.5.

The Maricopa County Air Quality Department also issued a “No Burn Day” restriction for Saturday and Sunday 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 because of below-freezing temperatures coupled with light winds in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

“We understand that this weekend will be extremely cold and there will be an urge to light a fire,” Maricopa County Air Quality Director Bill Wiley said. “Please keep warm by using gas, electric or approved EPA wood-burning devices. This will help your family members, friends and other residents, who have health issues, stay warm and get through this difficult time.”

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

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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://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](http://www.valleymetro.org) to learn more.

## **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

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