



Maricopa County  
Air Quality Department



## HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORY

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory for Thursday, Jan. 1 for fine Particulate Matter-2.5 (soot) in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

The Maricopa County Air Quality Department has also issued a “No Burn Day” restriction for Thursday, for residences and businesses since a Health Watch for PM-2.5 is in effect today with the PM-2.5 High Pollution Advisory for tomorrow. Inspectors will be sent into the community to enforce the restriction. This restriction also includes individuals and businesses that have burn permits for open burning.

Weather models are indicating shower activity being confined to the higher elevations with decreasing sky cover, temperatures dropping, winds dying down and a developing inversion lasting well into tomorrow morning. These factors point to particulates, such as PM-2.5, being trapped and concentrated near the surface.

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities and suggests that the general public limit outdoor activity when the High Pollution Advisory is in effect on Thursday.

“We understand that there will be many folks getting together and having family and friends over for New Year’s celebrations,” Maricopa County Air Quality Department Director Philip McNeely 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.”

The Maricopa County Trip Reduction program and Valley Metro Commute Solutions request employers activate their HPA Plan for Jan. 1. Residents and employers are asked to use these tips to help make the air healthier to breathe:

- Eliminate wood fireplace and wood stove use.
- Drive as little as possible: car pool, use public transit or telecommute. For information on transportation alternatives, visit: [www.valleymetro.org](http://www.valleymetro.org) or [www.sharetheride.com](http://www.sharetheride.com).
- 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, wood burning) 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.

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## **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](http://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](http://www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html) and text alerts at [www.azdeq.gov/sms.html](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.maricopa.gov/aq/divisions/planning_analysis/rules/docs/rwro9911.pdf)

**Valley Metro** 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](http://www.valleymetro.org)

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