



News Release

Headline: SWCAA issues air pollution advisory for all of Southwest Washington including Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania and Wahkiakum Counties

Release Date: Friday, September 1, 2017

The return of wildfire smoke, stagnant conditions and hot weather is predicted throughout Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania and Wahkiakum Counties. Elevated smog (ground-level ozone) is also expected in Clark County. The Southwest Clean Air Agency, in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, is issuing an Air Pollution Advisory for wildfire smoke throughout southwest Washington and elevated ground-level ozone in Vancouver contributing to poor air quality. Air quality is predicted to be moderate to unhealthy with partial clearing at times. This Advisory starts Saturday, September 2, and lasts through at least Tuesday, September 5th.

Current air quality information is available online at:

<http://www.swcleanair.org/burning/airquality.asp>

The Air Quality Index rates air quality based on labels of “good” (0 to 50, green), “moderate” (51 to 100, yellow), “unhealthy for sensitive groups” (101-150, orange), and “unhealthy” (151-200, red), and “very unhealthy” (201 to 300, deep red). Any reading above 300 is “hazardous.” Ozone levels are expected to increase into the “unhealthy for sensitive groups” range in the Vancouver metropolitan area.

This advisory simply means that local residents are urged to protect their health and help improve air quality by reducing pollution from cars, mowers, paint and aerosol sprays. Commuters should consider taking public transportation or carpooling to work instead of driving, if possible. Smog-sensitive people, and those sensitive to wildfire smoke, should limit outdoor activities. This group includes older adults, children and people suffering from asthma or lung disease. The Washington Department of Health offers detailed information on how residents can best deal with smoke impacts on their homes and communities. Please visit <http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/AirQuality/SmokeFromFires> for more information.

Ozone pollution levels peak in the late afternoon and early evening. If you have asthma or other breathing problems, follow your health care provider’s advice. Children and the elderly and especially those people with respiratory illnesses are the most at risk of serious health effects and should limit outdoor activities.

Here are ways you can help sensitive people in your community by reducing air pollution:

- Avoid any type of burning
- Avoid unnecessary engine idling
- Refuel your vehicle during cooler evening hours
- Limit driving by combining errands or using public transportation
- Don't use gas-powered mowers and yard equipment
- Don't paint or use aerosol sprays

Businesses can help by encouraging employees to carpool, take the bus or telecommute on advisory days.

On very hot summer days pollution from cars, other gas-powered engines and smog-producing chemicals in paints and aerosol sprays can create unhealthy levels of smog. Smog and smoke irritates the eyes, nose and lungs, and contributes to breathing problems, reduced lung function and asthma.

For information on wildfire smoke visit <http://wasmoke.blogspot.com>

For information about using C-TRAN or other transportation options in Vancouver area, call 360-695-0123, or visit www.c-tran.com

For weather information visit the National Weather Service website at: www.nws.noaa.gov

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