



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

# News Release

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## **DEQ issues air quality advisory due to stagnation**

Statewide, Ore.—The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Lane Regional Air Protection Agency and Southwest Clean Air Agency issued an air quality advisory for much of Oregon and southwest Washington due to stagnant air conditions trapping wood smoke near the ground where people breathe.

DEQ expects the air quality advisory to last until at least Wednesday.

Check current air quality conditions and advisories on DEQ's website or by downloading the OregonAir app on a smartphone.

Several county health and local air agencies have also issued local wood burning restrictions limiting the use of wood stoves, fireplaces and outdoor burning. There are often exceptions for those who use wood exclusively to heat their homes and those with limited income. Check with your local health or air agency for current restrictions.

People can take the following precautions to protect their health:

- Follow local burn restrictions to prevent deteriorating air quality.
- Avoid strenuous outdoor activity in smoky conditions.
- Those with heart or lung problems, as well as young children, are especially vulnerable. These people should stay indoors while smoke levels are high.
- Use certified HEPA filters in indoor heating and ventilation systems. HEPA stands for high efficiency particulate air filters.
- Avoid using wood-burning stoves and other sources of indoor smoke if possible.

DEQ's color-coded Air Quality Index provides current air quality conditions and ranks air quality as follows: Green is good. Yellow is moderate. Orange is unhealthy for sensitive groups such as children, seniors, pregnant women and those with respiratory conditions. Red is unhealthy for everyone. Purple is very unhealthy for all groups. Maroon is hazardous.

**Resources:**

- **Check** current conditions and advisories on DEQ's Air Quality Index at <https://oraqi.deq.state.or.us/home/map> or by downloading the OregonAIR on your app on your smartphone.
- **Learn** more about the Air Quality Index: <https://oraqi.deq.state.or.us/home/text/368>

Media contacts:

- Oregon DEQ: Laura Gleim, Public Affairs Specialist, 541-633-2030, [gleim.laura@deq.state.or.us](mailto:gleim.laura@deq.state.or.us)
- Lane Regional Air Protection Agency: Jo Niehaus, Public Affairs Manager, 541-736-1056 x217, [jniehaus@LRAPA.org](mailto:jniehaus@LRAPA.org)
- Southwest Clean Air Agency: Uri Papish, Executive Director, 360-574-3058 x112, [uri@swcleanair.org](mailto:uri@swcleanair.org)