



News Release

Headline: The Southwest Clean Air Agency Downgrades Clark County to Stage 1 Burn Ban and Extends Stage 1 Burn Ban for Skamania County.

Release Date: 3:00 pm Friday December 6, 2019

Effective immediately, the Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) is downgrading Clark County to a Stage 1 Burn Ban and extending the Stage 1 Burn Ban for Skamania County. These burn bans will remain in effect until noon Tuesday December 10, 2019.

The National Weather Service is forecasting stagnant air conditions to persist into next week. Showers are predicted for Friday night and Saturday which should improve conditions slightly for the weekend. With persistent stagnant conditions leading to poor mixing, elevated pollution levels are expected to remain. A weak disturbance expected on Saturday may temporarily improve air quality, but it is expected to deteriorate and return to unhealthy levels by early next week.

All outdoor burning and the use of fireplaces, uncertified stoves and inserts is prohibited in Clark and Skamania Counties until noon Tuesday. If wood burning is your only source of heat, you are exempt from this curtailment and SWCAA asks that you burn as clean as possible.

“We are hopeful that calling this Stage I burn ban will moderate ambient levels of fine particulate matter until a more active weather system moves in,” said Uri Papish, executive director for the agency. “We are not asking anyone to go without heat, but to use an alternative source of heat if possible until weather patterns change, and our air quality returns to healthy levels.”

Current air quality information is available on the web at:

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

SWCAA’s color-coded 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.

While residents can view current air quality conditions at <http://www.swcleanair.org>, SWCAA’s monitoring network does not capture air quality conditions in all communities. For this reason, it’s important for residents to gauge air quality conditions where they live and take appropriate actions to protect themselves. Remember, local smoke levels can rise and fall rapidly, depending on weather factors including wind direction.

As always, consult with your health care provider for more specific questions and concerns. For weather information visit the National Weather Service website at: www.nws.noaa.gov

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