



News Release

Headline: The Southwest Clean Air Agency, in conjunction with Oregon DEQ, issues an air quality advisory for smog and wildfire smoke in Southwest Washington and surrounding Portland Metro area.

Release Date: Friday, August 13, 2021

Along with extreme temperatures Friday, we are expecting elevated levels of ozone pollution (smog) and particulate matter (PM) from wildfire smoke for Clark, Cowlitz, and Skamania Counties. Both ozone and PM levels are expected to be in the MODERATE to UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS today through the weekend as the region is under the influence of the extreme heat and wildfire smoke. Health officials recommend sensitive groups limit outdoor activity when pollution levels are elevated.

<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 and PM levels are expected to increase into the “unhealthy for sensitive groups” range at several locations in Southwest Washington.

<https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>

The 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 instead of driving, if possible. Smog-sensitive people 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 impacts on their homes and communities.

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/AirQuality/OutdoorAir>

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 irritates the eyes, nose and lungs, and contributes to breathing problems, reduced lung function and asthma.

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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