

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2017

### **STAGE 1 BURN BAN CONTINUES FOR KING, KITSAP, PIERCE, & SNOHOMISH COUNTIES**

**All outdoor burning is prohibited until air quality improves**

**SEATTLE, WA** – Significant wildfire smoke from British Columbia remains in our region, and is expected through Friday. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is continuing a **Stage 1 air quality burn ban for King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties**.

This ban is in effect until further notice and is in addition to existing fire safety burn bans.

With winds from British Columbia moving wildfire smoke into our region, air pollution levels have become UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS and UNHEALTHY in many parts of Puget Sound. We expect these conditions to continue at least through Friday and possibly longer.

The purpose of the burn ban is to reduce any additional harm to sensitive populations and the general public from excess air pollution, in addition to existing fire safety burn bans. The Clean Air Agency will continue to closely monitor the situation for purposes of air quality burn bans.

#### **No outdoor burning during a Stage 1 air quality burn ban including:**

- **No charcoal barbecues or similar solid fuel devices**
- **No fire pits, chimineas, fire bowls, or similar free-standing devices**
- **No campfires or bonfires**
- No fireplaces, uncertified wood stoves, or uncertified inserts\*
- No agricultural fires (as described in the agricultural burn permit)
- Local fire districts do not grant Native American ceremonial fire permits outside of tribal lands during air quality burn bans.

**It is OK to use natural gas and propane grills, stoves, or inserts during a Stage 1 burn ban.**

\* The only exception to using fireplaces and uncertified wood stoves or inserts, is if the homeowner has a previously approved 'No Other Adequate Source of Heat' exemption from the Clean Air Agency

Everyone, and especially children, pregnant women, older adults, and those with heart and breathing problems should avoid physical exertion outdoors. If possible, seek clean, air-conditioned indoor air (e.g. public libraries, “cooling centers”, community and senior centers).

The Washington State Department of Health recommends that people who are sensitive to air pollution limit time spent outdoors, especially when exercising. Air pollution can trigger asthma attacks, cause difficulty breathing, and make lung and heart problems worse. Air pollution is especially harmful to people with lung and heart problems, people with diabetes, children, and older adults (over age 65).

Visit [pscleanair.org/burnban](https://pscleanair.org/burnban) to view the current burn ban status and:

- Download our free mobile app “**Burn Ban 411**”
- Find out what other alerts might be available in the area

**For more information:**

- Visit the “Frequently Asked Questions” tab on our [Burn Ban Status](#) page
- Visit our [Clean Heating Choices](#) page
- Visit the [Our Air Quality](#) page

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The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is an air quality management agency serving King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties. Created as a result of the 1967 Washington Clean Air Act, the agency protects public health by adopting and enforcing air quality regulations, educating individuals and businesses about clean-air choices and sponsoring voluntary initiatives to improve air quality.

The Agency fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and does not discriminate based on race, color, sex, or national origin in its programs and activities. In addition, the Agency also assures non-discrimination on the basis of creed, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital, or veteran status. For more information, or to submit a title VI Complaint, go to [www.pscleanair.org](https://www.pscleanair.org) or call (206) 343-8800.