

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2017

STAGE 1 BURN BAN CALLED FOR KING, KITSAP, PIERCE, & SNOHOMISH COUNTIES

All outdoor burning is prohibited until air quality improves

SEATTLE, WA – With more wildfire smoke from British Columbia moving into our region, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is issuing a **Stage 1 air quality burn ban for King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties, effective at 2 PM today, August 8, 2017.**

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

With high pressure pushing more smoke into the Puget Sound area, we forecast levels that are **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS** through Friday. We expect calm winds and smoke to settle daily. Saturday and onward, the area of high pressure should push eastward, bringing us back our more typical and cleaner air from the Pacific Ocean.

The purpose of the burn ban is to reduce any additional harm to sensitive populations from excess air pollution and is 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.

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).

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

- **No charcoal barbeques 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

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 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 or call (206) 343-8800.