

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 8, 2016

# BURN BANS CONTINUE

Stage 2 for Snohomish County; Stage 1 for Greater Pierce\* County

**SEATTLE, WA** – Due to stagnant weather conditions and elevated air pollution levels, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is maintaining the **Stage 2 burn ban for all of Snohomish County and the Stage 1 burn ban for Greater Pierce County.**

**These bans are in effect until further notice.**

We may have some winds in parts of Snohomish County tonight, but we expect the valleys in areas like Marysville or Darrington to remain calm with potential pollution levels that are unhealthy for sensitive groups. We also expect winds to remain light in Greater Pierce County.

The long term forecast is still a little tricky. We might see brief intervals of improved air quality, but the high pressure weather patterns that trap air pollution near the ground remain until Monday or Tuesday. We will continue to closely monitor the situation and update daily.

\* **Pierce County residents** on the “Pierce Peninsula” (Gig Harbor Fire #5, Key Peninsula #16, Anderson Island #27) and in “South Pierce” county (Roy Fire #17, Eatonville, Ashford #23) are not included in today’s burn ban. Check the [Pierce County Burn Ban Area Map](#) for more specific information.

### **During a Stage 2 burn ban:**

- No burning is allowed in any wood-burning fireplaces, certified or uncertified wood stoves or fireplace inserts. Residents should rely instead on their home’s other, cleaner source of heat (such as their furnace or electric baseboard heaters) for a few days until air quality improves, the public health risk diminishes and the ban is cancelled.
- The only exception is if the homeowner has a previously approved ‘No Other Adequate Source of Heat’ designation from the Clean Air Agency
- No outdoor fires are allowed. This includes recreational fires such as bonfires, campfires and the use of fire pits and chimineas.
- Burn ban violations are subject to a \$1,000 penalty.

### **During a Stage 1 burn ban:**

- No burning is allowed in wood-burning fireplaces, uncertified wood stoves or fireplace inserts. Residents should rely instead on their home's other, cleaner source of heat (such as their furnace or electric baseboard heaters) for a few days until air quality improves, the public health risk diminishes and the ban is cancelled.
- The only exception is if the homeowner has a previously approved 'No Other Adequate Source of Heat' designation from the Clean Air Agency
- No outdoor fires are allowed. This includes recreational fires such as bonfires, campfires and the use of fire pits and chimineas.
- Burn ban violations are subject to a \$1,000 penalty.

### **It is OK to use natural gas and propane stoves or inserts during both a Stage 1 & 2 burn bans.**

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 [www.pscleanair.org/burnban](http://www.pscleanair.org/burnban) to view the current burn ban status, download our mobile app, and other burn ban alert options for you area.

The following burn ban status text message alerts are available in Pierce County:

- All Pierce County text PIERCEBURN to 313131
- Pierce Peninsula text PENINSULA to 313131
- South Pierce County text SOUTHPIERCE to 313131

### **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](http://www.pscleanair.org) or call (206) 343-8800.