

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2017

BURN BAN LIFTED FOR KING AND SNOHOMISH COUNTIES CONTINUES FOR GREATER PIERCE

SEATTLE, WA – The burn ban for King and Snohomish County is lifted effective at 2 pm today, December 11th. The Stage 1 Burn Ban for Greater Pierce County continues.

This ban is in effect until further notice.

With fog lifting across the region, the sun is warming the ground and breaking the high pressure system over our region, helping improve air quality in many areas. We expect more winds in the north part of Puget Sound tonight, specifically in King and Snohomish Counties, that will help keep air pollution below the health standards.

However, with calm weather expected to continue in Greater Pierce County, we expect to have pollution levels **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS** tonight and into tomorrow, and possibly longer. Last night, pollution levels went over the EPA health-based standard in Tacoma.

The purpose of a burn ban is to reduce the amount of pollution that is creating unhealthy air usually due to excessive wood smoke. The Clean Air Agency will continue to closely monitor the situation.

* 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 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’ exemption from the Puget Sound 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 a Stage 1 burn ban.

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.

Text Alerts:

Sign up for text alerts by sending the text **313131** with one of these keywords:

- **PIERCEBURN** for all of Pierce County
- **PENINSULA** for the Pierce Peninsula
- **SOUTHPIERCE** for South Pierce County
- **DARRINGTON** for Town of Darrington

For more information visit:

- [Burn Ban FAQs](#)
- [Air Quality Network Map](#)
- [Clean Heating Choices](#)

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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.