

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 19, 2022

STAGE 1 BURN BAN CALLED FOR GREATER PIERCE* COUNTY

Use of fireplaces and uncertified wood stoves is prohibited until air quality improves

SEATTLE, WA – Due to stagnant weather conditions and rising air pollution, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is issuing a **Stage 1 burn ban for Greater Pierce County, effective 1 PM today, November 19, 2022.**

This ban is in effect until further notice.

There were high levels of wood smoke last night in wood burning areas of Pierce County. Although some of the smoke will clear today, we expect high levels again tonight due to stagnant weather conditions. This could lead to air quality reaching UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS in those areas and MODERATE air quality overall. Stagnant conditions are expected to remain until Sunday evening.

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.

The purpose of a burn ban is to reduce the amount of pollution creating unhealthy air, usually due to excessive wood smoke. Wood smoke affects the respiratory and cardiovascular systems and increases health risks, especially for sensitive populations.

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.

- It is OK to use certified wood stoves or inserts, pellet stoves, and natural gas or propane stoves or inserts.
- The only other 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 or Stage 2 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, including COVID-19. Smoke is full of small particles, which can be especially dangerous for sensitive groups — infants, children, and people over 65, or those who are pregnant, have heart or lung diseases (such as asthma or COPD), respiratory infections, diabetes, stroke survivors, or are suffering from COVID-19.

Visit pscleanair.gov/burnban to view the current burn ban status.

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.

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