

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 27, 2023

Contact: communications@pscleanair.gov

BURN BAN LIFTED FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY, CONTINUES IN GREATER PIERCE COUNTY

In Pierce County, outdoor burning, and the use of fireplaces and uncertified wood stoves is prohibited until air quality improves

SEATTLE, WA – The burn ban for Snohomish County has been lifted, effective 2PM today, November 27. Due to stagnant weather conditions and rising air pollution, a Stage 1 burn ban continues for Greater Pierce County

The ban does not include the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor Fire Districts and the Roy, Ashford and Eatonville Fire Districts in south Pierce County.

The ban is in effect until further notice.

Cold, calm, and clear conditions are leading to high levels of fine particulate matter overnight, especially in areas where there is a lot of wood burning. Through Wednesday, we'll have some improvement in the afternoon, but daily averages are expected to reach UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS in Pierce County and high MODERATE for most other areas. By Thursday, clouds and rain are expected to return and should improve air quality throughout the region.

The Clean Air Agency will continue to closely monitor the situation.

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 increase 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.

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.

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency would like to thank everyone who switched to alternative sources of heat instead of burning wood during these bans. Children, the elderly, and people with chronic respiratory health issues especially benefit from your efforts.

Visit pscleanair.gov/burnban to view the current burn ban status or sign up for alerts and to learn more about burn bans.

For more information visit:

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



1904 3rd Ave #105, Seattle, WA 98101

206-343-8800

pscleanair.gov

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.gov or call 206-343-8800.