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## PRESS RELEASE

**DATE:** Monday, November 30, 2009  
**TO:** Media and Reporting Fire Districts  
1000 hrs. DST  
**FROM:** Dave Caprile, PIO, YRCAA  
**SUBJECT:** UPPER & LOWER YAKIMA COUNTY – STAGE 1 BURN BAN CALLED

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Effective 1000 hrs., DST today, and projected to last until Thursday morning, December 03, 2009, a Stage 1 Burn Ban is called for Yakima County – BOTH the Upper Yakima County and the Lower Yakima County areas.

**Explanation:** The Air Pollution Control Officer of the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency has called this ban due to deteriorating air quality conditions of increasing particulate content in the PM<sub>2.5</sub> range, primarily resulting from a persistent inversion, combined with inadequate ventilation, thereby impeding dilution and dispersion. These conditions are not projected to improve until Thursday morning, but conditions will be re-evaluated daily.

Please Note: This applies to all areas of Yakima County except for Yakama Indian Reservation lands, which are overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency, and fall under the Federal Air Rules for Reservations (FARR) regulations. **For more information, visit their Federal Air Rules for Reservations (FARR) website at [www.epa.gov/r10earth/FARR.htm](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/FARR.htm).**

**The Stage 1 ban will be re-evaluated daily. Please check our website for the latest information:**  
**<http://www.yakimacleanair.org> , or call the YRCAA office at (509) 834-2050**

Note: The maximum allowable level of airborne particulates in the 2.5 micron range (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) under the current standard imposed by the Clean Air Act is 35µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The new standard went into effect on December 18, 2006, raising the standard (by lowering the tolerated amount) from the previous limit of 65µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

**A Stage 1 Burn Ban** means that, until removed:

1. All Outdoor Burning is prohibited, to include Agricultural burning for permit holders.
2. The use of any fireplace, uncertified wood stove or uncertified insert is prohibited unless it is the sole source of home heating.
3. Certified wood stove, certified fireplace insert or pellet stove/insert use *is* allowed.

**However, the Office of the Air Pollution Control Officer of the YRCAA wishes to strongly encourage all Yakima County residents to refrain from unnecessary wood burning until weather conditions change, allowing air conditions to improve and clear, bringing current air quality health concerns under control.**