



329 North First Street, Yakima WA 98901
Phone: (509) 834-2050 Fax: (509) 834-2060
Website: <http://www.yakimacleanair.org>

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: Monday, November 30, 2009
TIME: 1:00 PM
TO: Media and Reporting Fire Districts
FROM: Dave Caprile, PIO, YRCAA
SUBJECT: UPPER & LOWER YAKIMA COUNTY – STAGE 2 BURN BAN CALLED

Effective 1:00 PM today, a Stage 2 Burn Ban is declared for all of Yakima County – BOTH the Upper and the Lower Yakima County areas.

Explanation: The Air Pollution Control Officer of the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency (YRCAA) has declared this burn ban due to impaired air quality and associated adverse health effects caused by high levels of fine particulate. The high levels of fine particulate, caused primarily by wood stoves and outdoor burning, are trapped close to the ground by persistent inversion and/or inadequate ventilation.

Air quality may worsen, and is not projected to improve, until Thursday morning. YRCAA staff will continue to monitor the situation to determine when the burn ban can be lifted.

Please check our website for the latest information:

<http://www.yakimacleanair.org> , or call the YRCAA office at (509) 834-2050

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

During a Stage 2 Burn Ban:

1. All Outdoor Burning, including Agricultural burning, is prohibited;
2. The use of any fireplace, wood stove or fireplace insert (including certified devices) is prohibited unless it is the only adequate means of heating a home;
3. No excessive smoke is allowed from any wood burning device beyond a 20-minute start-up; and
4. All violations of the burn ban are subject to civil penalty.

The Air Pollution Control Officer strongly encourages *all* Yakima County residents to refrain from burning until air quality improves and the risk to public health is diminished.