



## JOINT PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 22, 2018

### AIR QUALITY ALERT FOR PUGET SOUND REGION DUE TO WILDFIRE SMOKE

This is an air quality alert for August 22, 2018, from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and the local health jurisdictions of King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties. Air pollution is increasing due to wildfire smoke and may cause health problems.

We forecast air pollution levels that are UNHEALTHY for everyone to continue through much of today in the Puget Sound Region. There has been some improvement in the South Puget Sound, but the levels still remain UNHEALTHY for everyone. Lingering smoke over the Pacific may still impact us through early tomorrow morning, but we expect much less smoke by tomorrow afternoon. Until air quality gets better, stay indoors with windows closed, if you can find somewhere cool. Check the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency [website](#) for updated forecasts as conditions change.

Wildfire smoke can cause a range of health problems:

- Trouble breathing
- Coughing
- Stinging eyes
- Irritated sinuses
- Headaches
- Asthma attack
- Chest pain
- Fast heartbeat

Everyone should take precautions, especially children, older adults, and people that are pregnant, have heart or lung issues (asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease COPD), or that have had a stroke:

- Stay indoors when possible.
- Limit your physical activity outdoors, such as running, bicycling, physical labor, and sports.
- N95 or N100 rated masks can help protect some people from air pollution. **Medical masks or standard dust masks do not provide the necessary level of protection.** N95 or N100 rated masks are usually available at hardware and home repair stores. Please check with your doctor to see if this appropriate for you. [More information here.](#)
- Close windows in your home, if possible, and keep the indoor air clean. If you have an air conditioner, use the “recirculation” switch. Use an indoor air filter if available.
- If you do not have an air conditioner, consider finding a public place with clean, air-conditioned indoor air like a public library or a community center.

- Avoid driving, when possible. If you must drive, keep the windows closed. If you use the car's fan or air conditioning, make sure the system recirculates air from inside the car; don't pull air from outside.
- Schools and daycare providers should consider postponing outdoor activities or moving them indoors.
- For more information on ways to reduce your exposure, see the Washington Department of Health's [Smoke From Fire tips](#).
- To learn more about wildfire smoke, and to subscribe to updates, visit the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency's [website](#).

As always, check with your health care provider for more specific questions and concerns.

### **FROM THE PUGET SOUND CLEAN AIR AGENCY – AIR QUALITY BURN BAN:**

Due to wildfire smoke and current air quality conditions, a Stage 1 air quality burn ban continues for King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties.

This ban is in effect until further notice and is in addition to existing fire safety burn bans.

The purpose of the burn ban is to reduce any additional harm from excess air pollution and is in addition to existing fire safety burn bans. The Clean Air Agency will continue to closely monitor the situation for purposes of air quality burn bans.

#### **No outdoor burning during a Stage 1 air quality burn ban including:**

- **No charcoal barbecues or similar solid fuel devices**
- **No campfires or bonfires**
- **No fire pits, chimineas, fire bowls, or similar free-standing devices**
- No fireplaces, uncertified wood stoves, or uncertified inserts\*
- No agricultural fires (as described in the agricultural burn permit)
- Local fire districts do not grant Native American ceremonial fire permits outside of tribal lands during air quality burn bans.

It is OK to use natural gas and propane grills, stoves, or inserts during a Stage 1 burn ban.

\* The only exception to using fireplaces and uncertified wood stoves or inserts, is if the homeowner has a previously approved 'No Other Adequate Source of Heat' exemption from the Clean Air Agency

Visit [pscleanair.org/burnban](https://pscleanair.org/burnban) to view the current burn ban status.

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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](http://www.pscleanair.org) or call (206) 343-8800.