

ON THE AIR

Summer
2018

A Newsletter about
Clean Air. Provided
by Spokane Regional
Clean Air Agency.

Prepare for Wildfire Smoke

Smoke from last year's wildfire season is the worst Spokane Clean Air has on record. Weather patterns carried smoke from regional wildfires into our area, resulting in high concentrations of smoke that impacted many in our community.

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, above normal significant wildland fire potential is predicted for July and August across the west.

Because we may experience significant smoke again, it's important to be prepared. This is especially important for the health of children, older adults and people with heart or lung disease.

To help you prepare, we've compiled a few helpful tips.

- Have a plan in place with your doctor if you or a loved one has existing health conditions.
- Check current air quality conditions at SpokaneCleanAir.org. While there, sign up for air quality alerts via email or text.

- Assess your air conditioner. Begin by asking an air conditioning professional what kind of high efficiency filters to use in your home's system. Also learn how to close the fresh-air intake when smoke is in the air.



A smoky summer day in Spokane

- Reduce how much smoke you inhale. If it looks or smells smoky outside, it is best to stay inside with the doors and windows closed. Wait until air quality is better before you are active outdoors.

- Do not rely on dust masks or bandanas for protection. An N95 respirator can protect you if it is properly fitted and worn correctly. You should consult with your health care provider to determine if they are right for you.

Editor's Note: This article focuses on air quality and health as it relates to wildfire smoke. If fires are a threat in our immediate area, it is important to follow directions from emergency response agencies and health officials to keep you and your family safe. ■

Resources:

Spokane Regional Health District
SRHD.org

Health information and tips for preparing for emergencies.

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
SpokaneCleanAir.org

Current air quality data, as well as 2-day air quality forecasts.

Snapshot of last Eight Wildfire Seasons

Wildfire Season	Number of days smoke from wildfires exceeded health-based air quality standards
2017	16
2016	0
2015	13
2014	1
2013	0
2012	2
2011	0
2010	1

Grant Funds Available Now!

Upgrade your old wood stove and save

It might seem strange to think about heating your home now when you've got the A/C on full power. But, planning ahead now will save you money.

If you've been thinking about replacing your old wood heating stove or fireplace insert, now is a great time! Spokane Clean Air has secured grant funding from the Washington State Department of Ecology to provide incentives to homeowners interested in replacing their wood burning stoves or inserts with new wood, pellet, or gas devices, or ductless "mini-split system" heat pumps.

Those who qualify will receive a discount off of the sale *and* professional installation cost. For wood, \$500; pellet is \$750, and for gas or ductless heat pumps the discount is \$1,000.

Minimum criteria to apply:

- ◆ Be the owner of a home located within the boundaries of the Spokane County Smoke Control Zone (*map online: spokanecleanair.org*) or within the city limits of Deer Park.
- ◆ Have an installed and operational wood stove (freestanding or insert) that is either non-EPA certified or manufactured prior to 1995; and
- ◆ Currently use the device on a regular basis for primary or secondary home heating.

To apply, submit an application with a photo of your currently installed device, to Spokane Clean Air. Applications are available at local participating hearth retailers and at SpokaneCleanAir.org. If you qualify, you'll receive a discount voucher and a list of participating hearth retailers who'll apply the discount on the purchase/installation of your new device. ■



Benefits of upgrading

Old wood stoves are inefficient and produce a lot of smoke—both indoors and outdoors. New devices heat much cleaner and much more efficiently. Other benefits to upgrading include:

- ◆ Save money on heating
 - new wood heating appliances use about 1/3 less wood than old devices.
- ◆ Protect your family's health
 - new devices are cleaner burning.
- ◆ Reduce dust and soot in your home.

Apply today!
[SpokaneCleanAir.org](http://SpokaneCleanAir.org/wood-heating)
[/wood-heating](http://SpokaneCleanAir.org/wood-heating)

Calling K-6 Graders: *Check this out!*

Learning how to take care of the environment is important. With the Spokane EnviroKids' Club, students in K-6 grade in Spokane County can team up to explore all parts of the environment.

"The EnviroKids' Club is a great way for students to begin discovering the environment around them," said Stephanie May, Public Information Specialist at Spokane Clean Air.

"What makes this club special is that the information is localized to Spokane. This helps connect members to their surroundings and instills environmental stewardship at an early age."

EnviroKids' Club members receive a quarterly newsletter with activities, games, and invitations to events in Spokane County. Members can also earn points and redeem them for prizes.

Membership is easy and free. If you are interested in signing up a child in your life, simply complete the form found at: <https://bit.ly/2JyRxCF>

Spokane EnviroKids is provided by these local agencies:

City of Spokane Solid Waste Dept
 City of Spokane Water Dept
 National Weather Service
 Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
 Spokane Conservation District



Pictured above is club member Mia Streifel with her handmade pinwheel

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
 Spokane County Stormwater Utility
 Spokane County Water Resources
 Spokane County Regional Solid-Waste System ■

Summer Ozone Season

Hot, sunny days are right around the corner in Spokane. Also lurking around that corner is our area's summertime air pollutant: Ground-level ozone.

Ground-level ozone is not emitted directly into the air, but is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the presence of sunlight. Ozone-forming chemicals come from industry, transportation (vehicle exhaust and vehicle refueling) and consumer products.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), breathing ground-level ozone can trigger a variety of health problems, particularly for children, the elderly, and people of all ages who have lung diseases such as asthma.

Ozone is measured at two locations in Spokane County: Greenbluff and Turnbull Wildlife Refuge.

Ozone pollution measurements can be found at SpokaneCleanAir.org/current-air-quality.

Ozone can also have harmful effects on sensitive vegetation and ecosystems.

There is good news: Individuals can help reduce ozone pollution in many ways, such as:

Drive less. Reduce car trips by combining errands. Walk, bicycle or ride the bus at least once a week, instead of driving alone.

Refuel in the evening. This keeps ozone-forming chemicals out of the air during the heat of the day.

Wait. Hold off using gas-powered lawn equipment until evening.

Upgrade your tools. Use manual or electric yard and garden tools.

Choose products wisely. Check labels to ensure the paints, solvents and other products contain zero VOCs. ■

Mow Down Ozone Pollution with a new Husqvarna Electric Lawnmower!

To help you begin making clean air choices and to help reduce ground-level ozone this summer, we've partnered with Country Homes Power to bring you a chance to win a Husqvarna Electric Lawnmower, valued at \$539.

The contest runs July 1- August 31, 2018.

To be entered into the drawing, complete the entry form online at SpokaneCleanAir.org or at your nearest CHP location:

8108 N. Division ♦ 5323 E Sprague Ave



One entry per person. Must be 18 years or older at the time of entry, other contest rules apply. Winner to be contacted on September 5, 2018.

Recreational Fires

As the weather warms up, many in Spokane will be drawn to outdoor fun and activities. For some, that may mean recreational fires. Recreational fires include open fire pits, chimneas and other devices that burn charcoal, dry firewood, or manufactured logs and pellets. If you plan to have a recreational fire, it is important to follow the rules.

Keep it small not tall. Fires must not exceed three feet in diameter and two feet in height.

Fuel it right. Firewood must be dry, clean and natural (untreated) or manufactured logs. The fire cannot be used for disposal.

Stay clear of structures. Outdoor wood-fueled recreational fires must be a minimum of 25' away from any combustibles and structures.

Stand guard and extinguish. A person capable of extinguishing the fire must attend it at all times, and the fire must be completely extinguished before leaving it.

Be a good neighbor. The fire may not cause a nuisance to your neighbors with excessive smoke and odors. Other rules may apply to your use of a recreational fire, such as homeowner association covenants, rental agreements, fire safety issues, etc.

Mind the ban. Most recreational fires are prohibited during fire danger season by local fire officials. Always check the Burn Ban Status before starting your fire at (509) 477-4710 or at SpokaneCleanAir.org.

Other rules apply. Visit SpokaneCleanAir.org to review the rules and if interested, sign-up to receive email notifications of burn bans. ■



Poster Contest Draws 147 Entries

Congratulations to the age group finalists who participated in our Poster Contest to help celebrate May's Clean Air Month. The posters were created using the theme, "Be Air Aware!" After much deliberation, the staff at Spokane Clean Air selected a finalist in each age group category.

All posters that were submitted were on display at Mobius Children's Museum, Mobius Science Center and River Park Square during the month of May.

There were 147 entries and each participant received a complimentary slice of Pizza Pipeline pizza.

Thank you to all of the students that participated and to Pizza Pipeline for supporting this contest. We can't wait to see your creativity in action next year. ■

On the Air is a publication of the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency. Its purpose is to inform local residents on all aspects of outdoor air pollution. Contact Lisa Woodard, *Editor*, with comments or article ideas: Phone: 477-4727, ext. # 115 Email: lwoodard@spokane-cleanair.org

Agency Contact Information:

Office:
(509) 477-4727

Burn Ban Status:
(509) 477-4710

Address:
3104 E. Augusta Avenue
Spokane, WA 99207

Web Address:
SpokaneCleanAir.org



Angel Mayabee, Grade 1



Briseis Sherman Grade 2



Esther Buckner, Grade 5



Lucine Atamian, Grade 6



Bryce Hare,
Grade 3



Madelyn Jo Cabrera
Grade 4