

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 3, 2016

**BURN BANS LIFTED FOR SNOHOMISH AND KING COUNTIES
BURN BAN LOWERED TO STAGE 1 FOR GREATER PIERCE* COUNTY**

SEATTLE, WA – Due to improved weather conditions, but with air pollution levels remaining an issue, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is **lifting the bans in Snohomish and King Counties, and lowering Greater Pierce County* to a Stage 1 burn ban, effective 2:00 pm today, January 3, 2016.**

This ban is in effect until further notice.

We expect to see some increase in winds in Snohomish County this afternoon. Clouds and precipitation should keep air pollution from becoming trapped near the surface (an inversion) in areas of the region tonight. However, air pollution levels in Pierce County are expected to remain higher and the forecast is for little to no winds the rest of the night. Without sufficient winds, and without a burn ban to reduce ongoing air pollution from wood burning, Pierce county will likely exceed the air pollution health standard.

* Pierce County residents on the “Pierce Peninsula” (Gig Harbor Fire #5, Key Peninsula #16, Anderson Island #27) and in “South Pierce” county (Roy Fire #17, Eatonville, Ashford #23) are not included in today’s burn ban. Check the [Pierce County Burn Ban Area Map](#) for more specific information.

The purpose of a burn ban is to reduce the amount of pollution that is creating unhealthy air usually due to excessive wood smoke. The Clean Air Agency will continue to closely monitor the situation.

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.
- The only exception is if the homeowner has a previously approved ‘No Other Adequate Source of Heat’ designation from the 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.

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

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. Air pollution is especially harmful to people with lung and heart problems, people with diabetes, children, and older adults (over age 65).

Visit www.pscleanair.org/burnban to view the current burn ban status, download our mobile app, and other burn ban alert options for you area.

The following burn ban status text message alerts are available in Pierce County:

- All Pierce County text PIERCEBURN to 313131
- Pierce Peninsula text PENINSULA to 313131
- South Pierce County text SOUTHPIERCE to 313131

For more information:

- Visit the “Frequently Asked Questions” tab on our [Burn Ban Status](#) page
- Visit our [Clean Heating Choices](#) page
- Visit the [Our Air Quality](#) page

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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 or call (206) 343-8800.