

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 11, 2015

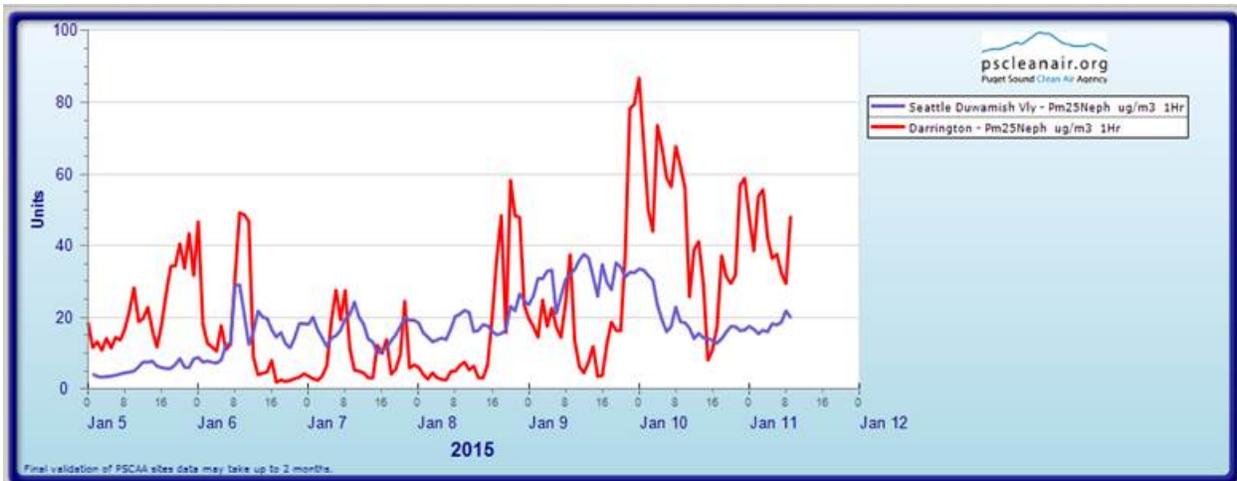
### STAGE 2 BURN BAN CALLED FOR TOWN OF DARRINGTON

Use of fireplaces and wood stoves is prohibited until air quality improves

**SEATTLE, WA** – Due to stagnant weather conditions and rising air pollution, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is issuing a **Stage 2 burn ban for the town of Darrington, effective at 12pm on Sunday, January 11th.**

**This ban is in effect until further notice.**

Pollution levels are well over the federal standard and the unhealthy level for sensitive groups. Unfortunately last night's rain did not help as much with Darrington's fine PM levels as we had hoped. Levels are still elevated and rising based on latest hourly reading we expect them to remain elevated into Monday. Conditions are stagnant and will stay that way for some time.



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 2 burn ban:**

- No burning is allowed in any wood-burning fireplaces, certified or 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 2 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).

### **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.