

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 27, 2015

BURN BAN ELEVATED TO STAGE 2 FOR GREATER PIERCE* COUNTY

Stage 2 Continues for Snohomish County; Stage 1 continues for Darrington

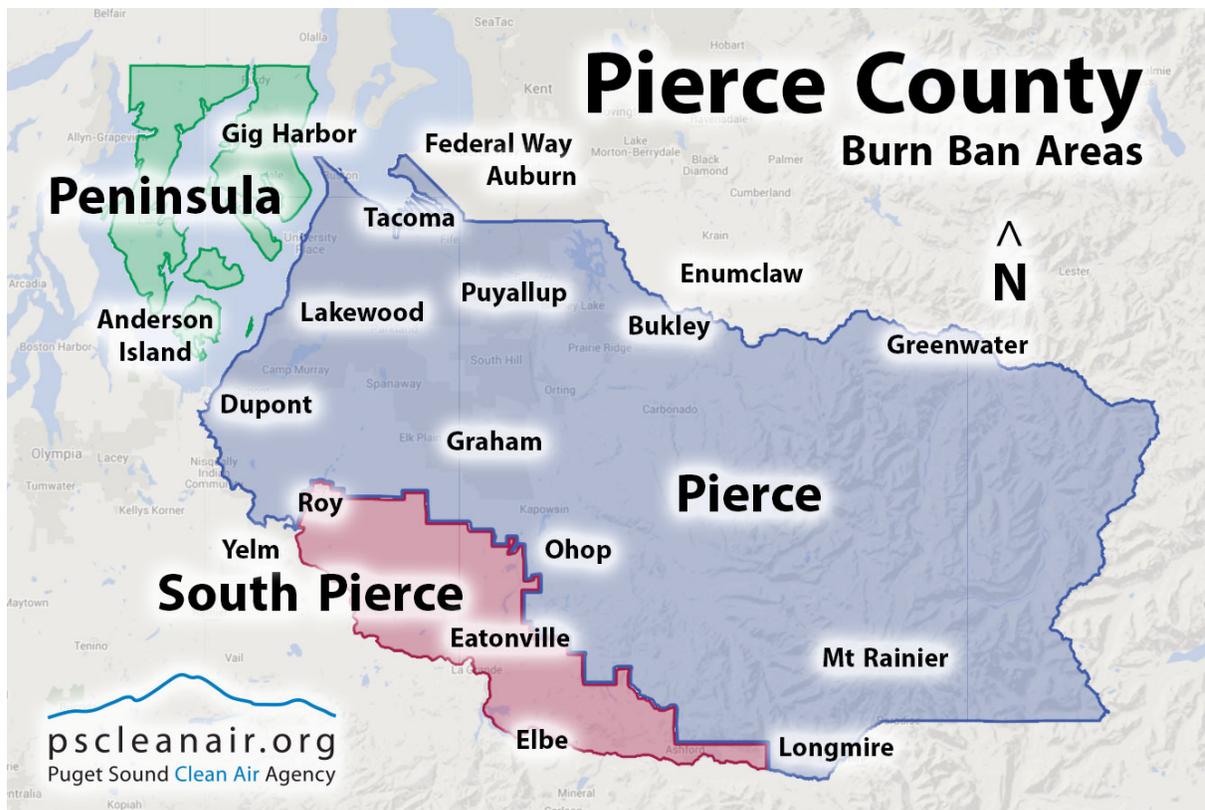
November 27, 2015, SEATTLE, WA – Due to stagnant weather conditions and rising air pollution, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is **elevating the burn ban in Greater Pierce County to a Stage 2 burn ban, effective at 1 PM today, November 27th.**

The Stage 2 burn ban for Snohomish County and Stage 1 burn ban for the Town of Darrington remain in effect.

All bans are in effect until further notice.

Air pollution in the Greater Pierce County area has reached levels that are “unhealthy for sensitive groups” and pollution in Snohomish County remains at levels “unhealthy for sensitive groups”. Winds continue in King County and the far southern portion of Pierce County as well as over the Key Peninsula and Kitsap County that are keeping these areas at “moderate” levels of pollution.

* Pierce County residents west of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge on the “Pierce Peninsula” (Gig Harbor Fire #5 and Key Peninsula #16) and in “South Pierce” county (Roy Fire #17, Eatonville, and Ashford #23) are not included in today’s burn ban. See map below.



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.

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 & 2 burn bans.

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).

You can download our free app: Burn Ban 411, for up to date information on burn bans throughout the Puget Sound area. Visit our [Burn Ban Status](#) page and click the Mobile App tab for more information.

The following burn ban status text message alerts are available:

- PIERCEBURN to 313131 for Pierce County bans as a whole
- PENINSULA to 313131 for the Gig Harbor/west Pierce County area only
- SOUTHPIERCE to 313131 for the South Pierce area only

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.