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MEDIA RELEASE

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Air Stagnation Advisory

The National Weather Service issued an "air stagnation advisory" for the lowlands of western Washington that will remain in effect until 10 am Saturday, January 14, 2012. This stable weather pattern can trap pollutants near the ground, causing unhealthy levels of pollution.

While it is possible for conditions to deteriorate, the Northwest Clean Air Agency believes that general air quality conditions in Island, Skagit, and Whatcom counties have remained good, and pollution concentrations are below levels which would trigger a burn ban.

However, even though the measured pollution concentration values are below those that would trigger a burn ban, it is possible that some neighborhoods might experience high pollution levels. The Northwest Clean Air Agency asks that if you heat with wood and air quality in your neighborhood is deteriorating, please use a cleaner, alternative form of heat until the atmospheric conditions change to allow for dispersion.

For those who heat with wood, please remember that it is always illegal to emit excess chimney smoke and to smoke out your neighbors. To learn about the health effects of air pollution, visit the American Lung Association of Washington's Web site at www.alaw.org.

For current air quality information, visit <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/enviwa/Default.htm>.

For clean burning tips, visit http://www.nwcleanair.org/aqPrograms/woodHeating_cleanBurn.htm.

For over 40 years, it has been the Northwest Clean Air Agency's job to ensure that people in our region have clean air to breathe. This is accomplished through the following programs and services: asbestos, business assistance, climate change, indoor air quality, outdoor burning and wood stoves and fireplaces. More information about the agency is available at <http://www.nwcleanair.org>.

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