



Dear Jo,

This summer has proved to be challenging with record breaking heat and continuous wildfire smoke invasions. We face a variety of challenges with the warmer temperatures. Higher temperatures and clear skies bring up Ozone levels in Lane County while the dry conditions also increase dusty environments. The lack of rain this summer has also lead to high alert wildfire watches and residents in Lane County have been experiencing wildfire smoke from California, Washington, and Eastern Oregon. We have also had some large structural fires in Eugene that created some smoky conditions in our area.

Now that summer is coming to a close, there are some big changes happening at LRAPA this fall: we are hiring! Home Wood Heating season is also undergoing an extension which will allow us to monitor and collect more data on wood smoke. We hope everyone had a fun and safe summer and were able to stay cool despite the heat. Cheers for some rain!

Civic Stadium Burns Down, Fire Debris Could Contain Asbestos


Careful Asbestos Debris Cleanup

-  1. Mist down the debris with water.
-  2. Gently pick it up while wearing rubber gloves.
-  3. Double bag in sealable plastic bags.
4. Throw away in trash or take to Lane County Waste Management. (541-682-4120, Call to make an appointment.)

On June 29th, 2015, Eugene's historic Civic Stadium was destroyed in a fire. Emergency personnel were able to contain the fire in a matter of hours, and although the structure was completely ruined, no one was injured.

The structure fire did put smoke and debris into the Southeastern Eugene neighborhoods and people were advised to handle all debris carefully. Initial tests showed no asbestos content on the debris but because the roof did contain asbestos material, people were cautioned to dispose of all debris as if it all contained asbestos.

On August 5th, 2015, only a few blocks from where Civic Stadium once stood, the Southtowne Lanes bowling alley also caught fire. Adjacent businesses were spared but the entire bowling alley was destroyed. Again, fire debris with possible asbestos contamination spread throughout the South East Eugene neighborhoods. People were advised to follow the same protocol as the Civic Stadium fire debris.

Because of extreme heat and dry conditions, risk for

wildfires and structural fires are high. LRAPA would like to remind people to proceed with caution when handling fire with barbecues and avoid using fireworks and other flammable activities.

For more information and advice, please visit our [webpage on the clean up](#).

Summertime Ozone Levels Rise

Since May, the LRAPA monitors have started to track Ozone levels in Eugene/Springfield and Cottage Grove. Ground level ozone pollution is a result of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) have a chemical reaction in the presence of sunlight. This action creates smog and increases health risks for people during extremely hot days. Already, this June has been the hottest June on record for the Eugene area since 1926! For ways to beat the heat and keep bad ozone levels from rising, follow our summer-time pollution prevention tips. [Click here for more](#).

Wildfire Season Still Underway



This summer's wildfire danger is extremely high due to the record-breaking temperatures and extreme dryness. The US Forest Service and Oregon's Department of Forestry have issued warnings all throughout Lane County's forests.

LRAPA will monitor smoke levels and movement in the event of a wildfire in our area. We may also be impacted by wildfire smoke from distant places such as Washington, California, or even further away.

On August 23rd, for the first time since LRAPA has started monitoring PM 2.5 levels in 1999, AQI levels reached the Unhealthy and Very Unhealthy levels from wildfire smoke impacts. The event lasted for several hours bringing the 24 hour average to a steady Unhealthy. Thankfully, the situation cleared up in a couple days with more winds coming from the west. LRAPA would like to thank all the fire fighters and personnel working out in the field.

Inhaling wildfire smoke is unhealthy and can cause health problems especially for children, seniors, pregnant women, and people with pre-existing heart/lung conditions. If you experienced any health problems from the smoke, please contact your health care provider.

To help prevent wildfires, we ask people to be respectful and responsible of all campsite rules, refrain from lighting any fireworks, and carefully put out cigarettes. For a full list of fires in Oregon and other resources, check out our [wildfire program webpage](#).

LRAPA is hiring!

Environmental Specialist I, II, III, or IV

LRAPA is looking for a new environmental specialist. Duties involve but are not limited to: reviewing industry permit applications; investigating industry source categories, reviewing and developing rules and requirements; and reviewing compliance inspections on industries and residences.

We are looking at a range of previous experiences from entry level to more than 5 years direct experience. For a full job description and application, check out our jobs page on our website. Posting closes on September 21st, at 5 PM.

www.lrapa.org/jobs

Extending Home Wood Heating season



Home Wood Heating Season October 1 thru May 31

In July 2015, the LRAPA Board of Directors approved to extend the Home Wood Heating season advisory from November 1st - February 28th to **October 1st - May 31st**. The extension was first proposed by the South East Neighbors, a South Eugene neighborhood association. With wood smoke being the number one cause of pollution in Lane County, the longer advisory season will give people an extended period of time where they must check in with LRAPA prior to starting a fire in their wood stove, pellet stove, or wood burning fireplace.

People can elect to do this by calling our hotline at 541-746-4328 or going onto our website at www.lrapa.org. People can also choose to receive text messages when burning is banned in the



Backyard Burning to start in October

Backyard Burning season is set to begin on October 1st. However, with very dry conditions and high temperatures, the season could be delayed. Please check in with LRAPA on September 30th to double check on the season start date.

Help us spread the word about our newsletter, invite your friends and family to sign up and follow us on our social media pages. If you have any questions or want more information on the newsletter items, please email [Jo Niehaus](mailto:Jo.Niehaus).

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