



Date: October 29, 2007
Contact: Sally Markos, 736-1056, ext.217
Kim Metzler, 736-1056, ext. 218
Lane County Media: 06-13

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Backyard Burning prohibited due to poor air quality

Stagnant air conditions in the Willamette Valley over the last few days have resulted in poor air quality. “Low overnight temperatures have produced a surface-based inversion that is keeping pollutants trapped near the ground. Low wind speeds do not allow dispersion of smoke from backyard burning. Because of poor air quality, backyard burning is prohibited until further notice,” said Sally Markos, of LRAPA.

“When fine particles from smoke and other pollutants get trapped at ground-level they can be inhaled deeply into the lungs and damage delicate lung tissues,” said Markos. People most at risk are those with asthma, heart or lung diseases, and older adults and children.

Willamette Valley residents should always call LRAPA’s open burning line, 726-3976, before burning to verify that burning is allowed on any given day. Coastal Lane County residents can call 997-1757 for daily outdoor burning advisories. LRAPA also recommends residents call their local fire departments for information regarding restrictions on burning in their areas before they burn. Detailed information about open burning can be found at www.lrapa.org.

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