



Date: August 3, 2010

Contact: Sally Markos, 541-736-1056, ext.217

Lane County Media: 10-10
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oregon “Heat Smart” Law In Effect

As of August 1, new law requires removal of uncertified woodstoves upon sale of home

“Heat Smart,” a new law passed to protect homeowners and reduce pollution from residential wood burning, took effect on August 1st. The law requires the removal and decommissioning of any uncertified woodstove or fireplace insert from a home when it is sold. The law was passed in the 2009 legislative session and signed by the Governor.

The law requires the homeowner/seller to remove an uncertified woodstove or fireplace insert in any building on the residential property being sold before the close of sale. The seller must make arrangements to have the stove taken out of commission and destroyed. Stoves may be taken to a metal recycler or the landfill. Residents are reminded that the sale of an uncertified stove is illegal.

Woodstoves manufactured before 1986 do not meet certification standards developed by the State of Oregon. These old, uncertified stoves produce approximately 70% more pollution and burn more wood than newer, clean-burning stoves that meet certification standards. Many of these old stoves may have been improperly installed or are in poor condition, creating a fire hazard for homes. Homeowners may determine the certification status of their stove by checking for an Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sticker or plate attached to the back of the stove.

“Smoke from residential home wood heating is a major source of air pollution during the winter months in Lane County,” said Sally Markos, LRAPA spokesperson. “Fine particulate and toxic compounds found in wood smoke pose a health risk for residents, especially children, the elderly, and anyone with compromised respiratory systems,” said Markos. Old stoves and piping also tend to leak smoke, which contributes to poor indoor air quality, making homes unhealthy for occupants.

Oregon is the first state to pass a law establishing a wood stove change-out requirement upon the sale of a home. Many jurisdictions in Oregon have passed and successfully implemented similar measures including Deschutes, Klamath, and Jackson counties along with the cities of Bend, Medford, Oakridge, Ashland, and others.

More information about the Heat Smart law and requirements may be found on the DEQ website: www.deq.state.or.us/aq/burning/woodstoves/heatsmart.htm

###