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For immediate release...

“RED” smoke advisory issued for Oakridge, continued “YELLOW” advisory for Eugene/Springfield

LANE COUNTY — The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency issued “RED” home wood heating advisory for Oakridge beginning at 4 p.m. on the afternoon of October 27th, 2020 and continue until 4 p.m. on October 28th. The Eugene/Springfield area will remain under a “YELLOW” advisory for the same period.

During a RED advisory, no visible smoke is allowed from a chimney at a residential home. People are asked to use alternative heating devices. LRAPA is sensitive to the fact that many Oakridge residents rely heavily on wood for their primary heat and economic exemptions are available through Oakridge City Hall.

“Particulate matter from wood smoke poses a threat to health and safety. We want people to stay warm but not expose themselves or others to high levels of air pollution that can be detrimental to their health,” said LRAPA spokesperson, Travis Knudsen. “We ask that people burn extremely clean or use alternatives until the air quality improves.”

A RED advisory is a health advisory. Children, pregnant women, seniors, and those who suffer from respiratory or cardiovascular diseases should avoid strenuous exercise or time outside in the smoke.

Outdoor burning is also prohibited during a RED home wood heating advisory.

Wood combustion is the biggest cause of winter-time air pollution in Lane County, especially in Oakridge. Degraded air quality can trigger asthma attacks or increase negative long-term health impacts including cancer and heart disease. LRAPA reminds Oakridge residents that during a RED advisory any visible smoke from a chimney can result in enforcement action and a fine from the city.

The Yellow advisory for the Eugene/Springfield area is a cautionary warning, predicting poor ventilation and stagnant air. Using fireplaces and woodstoves is allowed on yellow days but

LRAPA urges people to use other forms of heat such as electric, propane, or natural gas. If air quality continues to degrade a RED advisory may be issued in the Eugene/Springfield area prohibiting fireplace and woodstove use. Help prevent a red advisory by burning clean with small, hot fires. Use dry, seasoned wood and open dampers. LRAPA is sensitive to the fact that many Lane County residents rely heavily on wood for their primary heat and economic exemptions are available in the LRAPA office or online.

The agency forecasts pollution levels 24/7 and provides the community with a daily home wood burning advisory. Call the Home Wood Heating Hotline, 541-746-4328, or check LRAPA's [Home Wood Heating Webpage](#) for current advisories and up-to-date air quality information.

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