



January 20, 2021

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For immediate release...

“YELLOW” Home Wood Heating advisory issued for Eugene/Springfield and Oakridge

LANE COUNTY — The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) issued a YELLOW smoke advisory for Eugene/Springfield and Oakridge. This advisory will begin at 4 p.m. on Thursday, January 20th and continue through Friday, January 21st at 4 p.m. LRAPA expects stagnant air through Friday and the holiday weekend. More yellow advisory days are expected. The [Home Wood Heating Advisory webpage](#) is updated at 2 p.m. each afternoon with that day’s advisory which begins at 4 p.m.

“We all share the same airmass in the southern Willamette valley and Oakridge for the next few days,” says Travis Knudsen, Public Affairs Manager for LRAPA. “Woodsmoke pollution added to our airshed won’t leave until early Monday or Tuesday. As a community we must do our part and keep the air clean and use alternative forms of heating or assure our fires are burning efficiently and not producing smoke.”

Yellow advisories are cautionary warnings, 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 prohibiting visible smoke from 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.

Wood combustion is the biggest cause of winter-time air pollution in Lane County. Degraded air quality can trigger asthma attacks or increase negative long-term health impacts including cancer, for children, seniors, pregnant women, and people with pre-existing respiratory conditions.

LRAPA reminds residents that even during a yellow advisory, thick, harsh smoke from a chimney can result in enforcement action and a fine. 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 Advisory webpage](#) for current advisories.

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