

Air Alerts are called to protect public health!

Numerous studies link particle levels to increased hospital admissions and emergency room visits, as well as deaths from heart or lung diseases. Children, the elderly and people with heart or lung disease are at particularly high risk when particulate levels go up.

Protect yourself, your neighbors and your community!

Questions?

For additional information, please visit the Missoula City-County Health Department Air Quality web page at www.co.missoula.mt.us/airquality or call the Environmental Health Division at 258-4755.

MISSOULA CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

301 W. Alder
Missoula, MT 59802

Phone: 406-258-4755
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MISSOULA CITY-COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Stage I Air Alert

NOTICE: Inside the Missoula Air Stagnation Zone, no visible emissions are allowed from any woodstove or other solid fuel burning devices without a valid Stage I Air Alert Permit.



Stage I Air Alerts and the Air Stagnation Zone

Missoula County's Air Pollution Program regulations mandate that the Missoula City-County Health Department declare a Stage I Air Alert when pm2.5 particulate levels in the Air Stagnation Zone meet or exceed 28 µg/m³ averaged over an eight-hour period (Rule 4.104 (1)).

During a Stage I Air Alert, no visible emissions are allowed from any woodstove or other solid fuel burning devices in the Air Stagnation Zone without a valid alert permit (Rule 9.302 (1)).

Every person operating or in control of a woodstove or solid fuel burning device has a duty to know when an air pollution alert has been declared by the department (Rule 9.302 (5))

You can check for alerts by calling the **Air Quality Hotline at 258-3600.**

Fines for violating the air pollution program regulations can quickly add up!!

Penalties

Allowing visible emissions from your woodstove or solid fuel burning device without a valid alert permit is a civil penalty and criminal fines WILL BE COLLECTED.

1st violation: **\$50**

2nd violation: **\$250**

3rd or subsequent violations: **\$500**

Rule 15.104 (3)(a)

FAQs

1. How can I check for air alerts?

Call the Air Quality hotline (258-3600). The hotline is updated by 9am and periodically during the day as conditions change.

2. Why can't I use my woodstove or fireplace?

Residential woodstoves and fireplaces are the main source of winter particulate pollution in Missoula.

3. Why are air alerts called?

Small particulate matter can burrow deep inside your lungs. Long-term exposures have been associated with problems such as reduced lung function, the development of chronic bronchitis, and premature death. Short-term exposures to particles (hours or days) can aggravate lung disease, causing asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and may also increase susceptibility to respiratory infections.

Woodstoves send a lot of pollution into the air.

Heating your house with a large, non-EPA certified woodstove is like having 20 school buses idling in your front yard.



Non-EPA certified woodstove



EPA certified woodstove



Pellet stove



1/20 of a school bus



1/1000 of a school bus

Fuel oil furnace

Natural gas furnace

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