

## Why Now?



The Missoula Valley is already **AT** the federal, health-based air standard for particulate. If emissions increase, especially on the worst days of winter, EPA could designate us as a Non-Attainment Area.

Because of the nature of fine particulate, large portions of the county would be part of a non-attainment area, including the Missoula urban area, Frenchtown, lower Nine Mile, Lolo, Clinton, and others.

By taking steps to reduce FUTURE emissions, we have a better chance of staying under the federal standard, protecting air quality and the benefits of burning wood to heat homes.

If we violate the standard, we would be required by the EPA to further reduce woodstove emissions and existing stoves could be affected. Commercial operations and industry would be subject to stricter air quality controls.

We need to take steps now to control woodstove smoke. By restricting NEW installations to efficient, lower emission woodstoves, it helps to reduce the need for further regulations on existing stoves.

Missoula City-County Health Dept.  
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# Air Quality Open House

Learn more about proposed  
woodstove regulations

**Frenchtown Elementary  
Small Gym  
16495 Main Street  
Monday, June 8, 2009  
4 to 7 p.m.**



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[www.co.missoula.mt.us/airquality](http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/airquality)

# Why Do We Need Air Quality Regulations?



Missoula County is dangerously close to violating the federal health standard for small soot-like particulate matter.

Particulate matter affects everyone especially those with asthma, elderly, children, smokers, and those with heart and lung disease.

Over 55% of this particulate in Missoula is directly linked to woodstove use and in rural areas it's even higher.

Fine particulate is about 25 times smaller than the period at the end of this sentence. It goes deep into the lungs and is associated with increased heart attacks and respiratory problems. Because it is so small, fine particulate matter stays airborne and can drift hundreds of miles, affecting both urban and rural Missoula County residents. What starts in Florence can end up in Frenchtown and vice versa.



## Proposed Regulations

- Only EPA-certified woodstoves and wood stove-like devices could be installed in Missoula County. All new installations would require a permit.
- When pollution levels approach the health based fine particulate standard, a Stage II Warning could be called in Impact Zone M. During the Warning those with another source of heat could not burn wood until the air quality improves. A map of the Impact Zone M is available on our website at: [www.co.missoula.mt.us/airquality](http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/airquality)
- New fireplaces could not be installed in Missoula County. Fireplaces produce a lot of emissions and very little heat compared to approved woodstoves. EPA certified fireplace inserts could still be installed. Let's make sure that emissions go towards keeping people warm in an efficient manner.

### Benefits of EPA-Certified Stoves

Most woodstoves built after 1990 are EPA certified. Besides reducing particulate pollution by about 70%, these stoves are around 50% more efficient and use about 1/3 less firewood for the same output of heat than older, non-certified models. They also cause less creosote buildup in chimney pipes, reducing the potential for chimney fires.

## What's Not On the Table...

Draft Regulations **DO NOT** require the removal or permitting of existing woodstoves.

Draft Regulations **DO NOT** require the removal of woodstoves at time of sale outside the Air Stagnation Zone.

Draft Regulations **DO NOT** increase the size of the Air Stagnation Zone.

Draft Regulations **DO NOT** affect outdoor burning, recreational fires, or outdoor BBQ's.



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Drop by anytime between 4 and 7; there will not be a formal presentation. This is an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the draft regulations. This is not a public hearing to receive comments on the proposal.

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