



Burn Cleaner, Burn Better Newsletter Articles

Option 1

Burning wood in a fireplace, chiminea, or fire pit provides a warm cozy gathering place for families and friends during the holiday season. It also provides the perfect conditions for increased air pollution that can harm the ones you love. Maricopa County has high levels of air pollution caused by wood burning smoke, especially during the winter months. This puts the county at risk of not meeting federal health standards. If Maricopa County is unable to meet these standards, burdensome and costly federal regulations could result in stricter rules and higher fines.

Smoke (PM_{2.5}) poses a serious health risk to the elderly, children with asthma, and folks with respiratory issues. The particles can be absorbed into the blood stream and decrease lung function, exacerbate bronchitis and asthma, and increase chances for heart attacks and premature death.

Because of these reasons, the Maricopa County Department of Air Quality (MCAQD) issues 'No Burn Days' throughout the holiday season, when conditions warrant.

MCAQD is asking everyone to 'Burn Cleaner, Burn Better' and not light a wood burning fire on No Burn Days.

On No Burn Days you may use a gas or electric fireplace or an Environmental Protection Agency approved device. Burn Cleaner, Burn Better; eliminate all PM_{2.5} emissions by converting your wood burning fireplace to natural gas. Other cleaner options include fireplace retrofit, certified wood stoves, pellet stoves, gas, and/or electric fireplaces.

To find out if it is a No Burn Day, visit [Maricopa.gov/AQ](https://www.maricopa.gov/AQ) or call 602-506-6400.

Please help keep our air clean and our residents healthy by not burning wood on a No Burn Day. 'Burn Cleaner, Burn Better.'

Option 2

We all know how great a fireplace can be on cool winter nights especially during the holidays. However, during the winter Maricopa County has a problem with smoke (PM_{2.5}). If the issue is not corrected and the PM_{2.5} levels remain near the federal health standards, Maricopa County could face burdensome federal regulations, possible fines, and a substantial health risk for our residents. Please "Burn Cleaner, Burn Better," and on No Burn Days, don't burn wood. If possible, use a gas or electric fireplace, convert your wood burning fireplace to natural gas, or retrofit your fireplace with an air pollution reduction device.

Maricopa County Air Quality Department offers a free fireplace retrofit program. For more information call 602-372-WOOD (9663) or visit [Maricopa.gov/AQ](https://www.maricopa.gov/AQ).

