



October 26, 2020

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*For immediate release...*

## **“YELLOW” smoke advisory issued for Eugene/Springfield and Oakridge, Outdoor Burning prohibited in Oakridge and Lowell.**

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 Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and continue through Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. LRAPA expects yellow advisory days to continue through Thursday. The [Home Wood Heating Advisory webpage](#) is updated at 2 p.m. each afternoon with the following day’s advisory.

Outdoor burning of woody yard debris is prohibited in Oakridge and Lowell for Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Check LRAPA’s [outdoor burning advisory webpage](#) for daily updates.

“A plunge of cold air from the north has filled into Lane County and set up an inversion for the valleys,” says Travis Knudsen, Public Affairs Manager for LRAPA. “This inversion will trap smoke from chimneys and woodstoves near the surface of earth and reduce our air quality, especially in the morning hours.”

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 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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