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# News Release

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**For Immediate Release**

**Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024**

## Clark County Air Quality Wants You to *Put Out the Fire This Christmas*

*Less wood-burning on Dec. 24 and 25 will reduce air pollution to avoid exceeding federal clean air standards.*

As families gather in homes across the Vegas Valley this holiday season—specifically Dec. 24 and 25—Clark County’s Department of Environment & Sustainability (DES) is asking people with wood-burning fireplaces, fire pits and stoves to Put Out the Fire!

Over the past two years, Clark County registered exceedances of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s health-based standard for PM<sub>2.5</sub> (particulate matter) on Dec. 25. The culprit: increased wood-burning throughout the region. According to Ted Lendis, planning manager for the Division of Air Quality within DES, those exceedance days can lead to federal restrictions if they keep adding up.

“We’re asking people to not burn firewood on Dec. 25 to break the streak of Christmas Day exceedances this year,” said Lendis. “One less fire in your home and other homes can mean the difference in local air quality.”

### **The Christmas Day Exceedances**

In 2022, the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) recorded exceedances for PM<sub>2.5</sub> at two of 14 air monitoring stations throughout Clark County on both Dec. 24 and 25. Another PM<sub>2.5</sub> exceedance was recorded on Dec. 25, 2023, at two of 14 air monitoring stations. Air Quality specialists determined increased wood burning to be the primary reason for the exceedances.

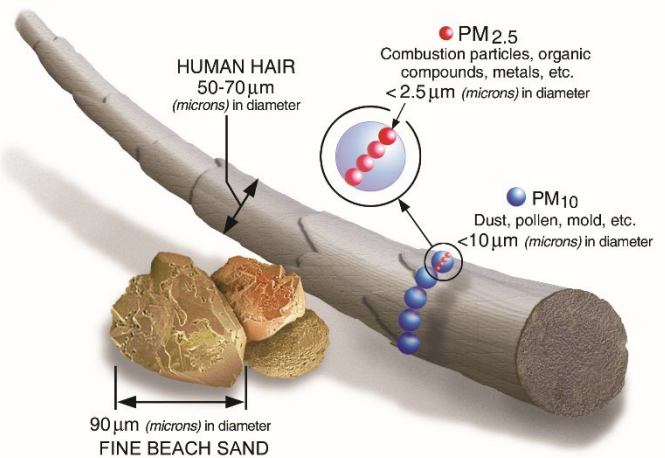
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## Clark County Air Quality Wants You to Put Out the Fire This Christmas, cont.

### What is Particulate Matter

A criteria pollutant according to the EPA, particulate matter is a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air. Dust, smoke, dirt and soot make up particulate matter. DAQ monitors and regulates particulate pollution in two sizes:

- **PM<sub>10</sub>**: inhalable particulates, such as dust.
- **PM<sub>2.5</sub>**: smaller inhalable particles, such as smoke and soot.



### How Can People Put Out the Fire?

In lieu of putting another log on the fire, DAQ is encouraging people to eschew wood-burning and take the [Put Out the Fire Pledge](#). Everyone who signs the pledge is automatically entered into a drawing to win an electric fireplace, courtesy of the American Lung Association Nevada. Air Quality officials also encourage people to use “burn wise” habits when burning wood.

- Use dry, seasoned wood for fires. Don't burn wet, coated, painted and pressure-treated wood.
- If you use manufactured logs, choose those made from 100 percent compressed sawdust.
- Don't use gasoline, kerosene or lighter fluid to start a fire.
- Don't burn trash, cardboard, plastics, wrapping paper, magazines or foam.
- Keep a fire extinguisher handy.
- For more tips, go to DAQ's [Burn Wise](#) page.

“One of the greatest gifts we can give ourselves this holiday season is better air quality and we, as residents, have the power to do it,” said Lendis. “One small sacrifice this Christmas Day to Put Out the Fire will go a long way for protecting the air we share.”

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Located in Clark County, Nevada, the Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES) is the region's air pollution control agency. DES also administers the Desert Conservation Program and leads the All-In Clark County initiative to address climate impacts in Southern Nevada. Whether it's protecting the air we share, protecting species like the desert tortoise or making home and vehicle electrification easier for residents, our team is united by our shared passion to create a cleaner, healthier, more sustainable Southern Nevada.

Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 11th-largest county and provides extensive regional services to 2.4 million citizens and 43 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 7th-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The County also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to 1 million residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development.

Clark County news releases may be found at [www.ClarkCountyNV.gov](http://www.ClarkCountyNV.gov).

You may also follow the County on more than 40 social media sites, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, NextDoor, Pinterest and YouTube.