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NEWS RELEASE

Thursday, Nov. 1, 2012

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Restrictions on Wood-burning Begin Today

Salt Lake City, Utah – Wood burn restrictions begin today marking the start of the winter pollution season. The restrictions—triggered when fine particle pollution (PM 2.5) from vehicles, woodstoves, and fireplaces reaches unhealthy levels—are in effect from November to March.

Voluntary restrictions on wood burning and reduced driving are encouraged when “yellow” air days are forecasted. Wood burning is prohibited on “red” air days and motorists are asked to limit driving as well. No restrictions are in place on “green” days.

The curb on wood burning is aimed at reducing hard-to-see particle pollution that builds up during inversion periods and impacts health. The children, elderly, and those with respiratory conditions are especially sensitive on red and yellow air days.

People don’t have to wait for a yellow or red air days to take action to improve air quality. “There are opportunities every day,” said Bryce Bird, director of the Utah Division of Air Quality. “Trip-chaining, carpooling, and taking mass transit are easy ways to curb air emissions.” Residents aren’t the only ones being asked to do their part. Red and yellow alerts can trigger emission cuts for industry as well.

Residents, businesses and government agencies are encouraged to sign up and pledge to reduce air emissions through Utah Clean Air Partnership orUCAIR at ucair.utah.gov.

“We all know what it’s like to live here during a nasty inversion,” said Bo Call, manager of the Air Monitoring Center. “While we can’t control the weather, with a little help from everyone we can reduce how much pollution we’re breathing during an inversion” he added.

To view DAQ’s three-day pollution forecast visit airquality.utah.gov. Wood burn conditions are also available by calling 801-536-0072 or 1-800-228-5434.

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