Richard J. Berry, Mayor

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
AIR QUALITY DIVISION

1 Civic Plaza
Rm. 3047
P.O. Box 1293
Albuquerque N.M. 87103
Phone 505-768-1972
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October 1, 2013 to March 1, 2014

Wood Burning Exemption Request

Dear Resident:

This letter is sent in conjunction with a standard form for you to complete and return to our office, if you are interested in obtaining a Wood Burning Exemption for this winter. Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Regulation 20.11.22 NMAC "Wood Burning" requires that exemptions be granted for no more than 150 days, thus necessitating the submission of a new application each year. If you need to burn wood for domestic heat or cooking this winter on no burn days, please fill out the enclosed Wood Burning Exemption Request and return it to the address as shown at the top of the form.

Part 22 of the regulations allows the Environmental Health Department Director to grant exemptions for the following reasons:

1) If your fireplace or woodstove is the only source of heat for your home, or if it is the only source of heat for a significant portion of your home. Generally speaking, woodburning exemptions are not granted to people who have added rooms to their house and have chosen to heat those rooms with a woodburning stove or fireplace.

2) If there is an economic need to burn wood for heat. The Regulation requires that proof of membership in either the (1) Food Stamp, (2) Medicaid, or (3) Low Income Energy Assistance programs be provided. A Low Income Exemption cannot be provided to individuals who are on Social Security and/or Medicare but not one of the above listed programs.

3) If there is a medical need for the therapeutic heat provided by fireplace or woodstove, and such need can be substantiated by a qualified physician. Medical exemptions are not granted for asthma or other respiratory problems, mainly because many complaints about wood smoke are received yearly from people who suffer those same respiratory problems. The majority of the medical exemptions are granted for arthritis, full or partial paralyzation, heart problems, or other serious illness that require strong radiant heat.

The Environmental Health Director has the discretion to grant exemptions for other reasons, if it is believed that failure to grant such exemption might endanger the health of the applicant or others. Please note also that the Director has the option of either granting an exemption, granting an exemption with conditions, or denying an exemption.
The Air Quality Division of the Environmental Health Department, City of Albuquerque, enforces the regulations as established under the New Mexico Air Quality Control Act, NMSA 1978 74-2-4,74-2-5.C; the Joint Air Quality Control Board Ordinance, Bernalillo County Ordinance 94-5; the Joint Air Quality Control Board Ordinance, Revised Ordinances of Albuquerque 1994-9-5-1-4. The Division's jurisdiction includes the City of Albuquerque and all of Bernalillo County.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, require assistance with completing the application, or have questions regarding the woodburning program or other air quality matters, please call 768-1972.

Sincerely,

Damon R. Reyes, Environmental Health Supervisor, AQD/EHD/CO