



Martin J. Chávez, Mayor

City of Albuquerque
Environmental Health Department
Air Quality Division
11850 Sunset Gardens SW.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87121



Alfredo R. Santistevan, Director

AIR QUALITY WOOD BURNING YELLOW ALERT

The City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department Director Alfredo Robert Santistevan has issued a **WOOD BURNING YELLOW ALERT** for the City of Albuquerque to include Bernalillo County based on elevated fine particulate matter levels causing the Air Quality Index to be UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS. The **WOOD BURNING YELLOW ALERT** will be effective from 12:00 PM Thursday, December 15, 2005 thru 11:00 AM Friday, December 16, 2005.

A YELLOW ALERT has been issued because a strong inversion will develop rapidly after sunset. The inversion will trap wood burning smoke near the surface. Dry air and calm winds have settled over Albuquerque following a weak cold front. Stagnant conditions will continue during the day Friday.

For this reason, the **City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department** recommends limiting the use of wood burning fireplaces and stoves unless the device is EPA approved. Alternative forms of transportation are also encouraged.

Children, senior citizens, and those with respiratory illnesses or compromised immune systems are advised to limit their outdoor activities during this YELLOW ALERT.

Precautionary Steps

- Limit physical exertion outdoors;
- Pay attention to your respiratory condition;
- Check for wheezing, coughing;
- Be vigilant about asthma management;
- Make sure your medications are on hand and follow your physician's advice for you
- Consider alternative activities or move the activity indoors if possible.

The City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department, Air Quality Division is responsible for enforcing the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board Woodburning Regulation.

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For updated wood burning information call 768-BURN (2876); for additional air quality information call 766-4731. To contact Jeff Stonesifer, Environmental Health Department Meteorologist, call 767-5624.