



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

WOOD BURNING RED ALERT

Effective December 21, 2005 – 11:00 am through December 22, 2005 – 11:00 am

Environmental Health Department Director Alfredo Robert Santistevan has issued a **WOOD BURNING RED ALERT** for the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County. Operation of any fireplace, wood heater, wood stove, etc. during this period is **PROHIBITED** unless the device is EPA Certified or a person has obtained a Wood Burning Exemption from the Air Quality Division.

The **PROHIBITION** for burning in wood burning devices is related to elevated fine particulate matter levels causing the Air Quality Index to be UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS.

A high pressure system has settled over New Mexico and will keep our air stagnant for a couple of days. With calm winds, dry air, and fair skies at sunset, the nighttime inversion will set up early this evening and trap any smoke near the surface. Conditions may become more favorable Friday as another cold front approaches from the north.

Children, senior citizens, and those with respiratory illnesses or compromised immune systems are advised to limit their outdoor activities during this NO-BURN PERIOD.

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;
- 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.

The WOOD BURNING RED ALERT will be effective from 11:00 AM Wednesday, December 21, 2005 thru 11:00 AM Thursday, December 22, 2005.

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.