



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

January 11, 2005 – 11:00 am

Environmental Health Department Director Alfredo Robert Santistevan has issued a **WOOD BURNING YELLOW ALERT** for 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 11:00 AM Wednesday, January 11, 2006 thru 11:00 AM Thursday, January 12, 2006.

A YELLOW ALERT has been issued because an inversion will develop rapidly after sunset. The inversion will trap wood burning smoke near the surface. The inversion will set up early because of dry air and light winds. However, tonight's inversion won't be as strong as Tuesday night's. Wind associated with a weak cold front is expected to clean the air Thursday and further improve conditions for burning.

For this reason, the 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. To assist in preventing additional pollution the Environmental Health Department also encourages the public to:

- Consider car pooling
- Taking the bus
- Making sure their vehicles are operating with properly inflated tires and well tuned engines

Those individuals who are the most at risk are:

- People with respiratory or cardiovascular disease;
- Children;
- Elderly people who are engaged in high energy activities such as running, jogging, or biking.

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 your health care;
- Consider alternative activities or move the activity indoors if possible.

For updated air quality information call 766-7664 or 768-4734. To contact Jeff Stonesifer, Environmental Health Department Meteorologist, call 767-5624.