

BURN SEASON

Safety and Health Effects of Wood Smoke Awareness Kit

As temperatures are getting colder, many are starting the first fires of the home-heating season. EPA has established the Burn Wise campaign to reduce wood smoke pollution to encourage homeowners to help protect their home, health and the air we breathe.

During the wintertime, residential wood smoke is a main contributor to fine particle pollution and is responsible for poor air quality days in many areas across the United States.

Particle pollution in wood smoke can affect everyone, but children, teenagers, older adults, people with lung disease, including asthma and COPD, or people with heart disease are the most vulnerable.

Particle pollution exposure can lead to a variety of health effects. For example, numerous studies link particle levels to increased hospital admissions and emergency room visits—and even to early death. Research indicates that obesity or diabetes may increase risk. New or expectant mothers may also want to take precautions to protect the health of their babies.

EPA's **Burn Wise** program encourages communities and their citizens to implement safe burning practices by emphasizing the importance of burning *the right wood, the right way, in the right wood-burning appliance*.

We encourage you to spread the word about the safety and health effects of wood smoke in your community and offer the following tools and tips to help you in these efforts.

Contact Leigh Herrington, herrington.leigh@epa.gov or 919-541-0882, if you have questions.



In this kit

- **Burn Wise Infographic**
- **Wood Stove and Fireplace Safety Tips to Protect Your Health article**
- **Burn Wise Top 20 Social Media Posts**
- **Burn Wise Fast Facts**

On EPA's Burn Wise website

- **Safety and Health Effects of Residential Wood Smoke PowerPoint presentation**
<http://epa.gov/burnwise/healtheffects.html>
- **PM Health Effects from Wood Smoke Webinar**
<http://epa.gov/burnwise/videos/ArdenPopeWebinar.mp4>
- **Wet Wood is a Waste brochure**
- <http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/pdfs/wetwoodwastebrochure.pdf>
- **Burn Wise Widget**
www.epa.gov/burnwise/widgets.html

Social media sites

- **Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/EPABurnWise>
- **Twitter**
<https://twitter.com/epaburnwise>
- **YouTube**
 - *Split, Stack, Cover and Store*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yo1--Zrh11s>
 - *Wet Wood is a Waste*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jM2WGgRcnm0>

How to use these tools

- Conduct outreach to community-based organizations such as health centers, libraries, parks, recreation centers, or other gathering locations.
 - Present PowerPoint or share webinar.
 - Distribute, print, and/or post infographic and other materials.
- Play videos on community or internal TV networks.
- Include or link to article or infographic in your community newsletter, blog, and/or website.
- Send Burn Wise health article as e-blast to community networks and listservs; include infographic, fast facts, and links to videos.
- Share article, infographic, and videos with local media for placement or follow-up pieces.
- Use social media to share or tweet best burn or other tips. Link to Burn Wise website or infographic.
- *Like* or *Follow* EPA Burn Wise on Facebook and Twitter.

Best Burn Tips

- Burn dry, seasoned wood that has been split, stacked, covered, and stored.
- Test wood with a moisture meter (20% moisture or less is best).
- Use a cleaner-burning gas or wood stove.
- Make sure to provide sufficient air to the fire; never let it smolder.

For more best burn tips, visit
www.epa.gov/burnwise