

EMERGENCY EPISODE PLAN

050.001 EMERGENCY EPISODE PLAN (Adopted 3/23/06)

SECTION A – GENERAL

1. PURPOSE: The purpose of this regulation is to:
 - a. Advise persons with respiratory or cardiac problems of air pollution levels which may be harmful to their health; and
 - b. Initiate corrective control measures to prevent buildup of air contaminants to levels which would cause significant harm to a significant portion of the population in the Washoe County Health District.
2. APPLICABILITY: The provisions of this regulation shall apply to the entire Health District.

SECTION B – DEFINITIONS: For the purpose of this regulation, the following definitions shall apply.

1. Air Quality Index. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is an index for reporting daily air quality. It reports how clean or polluted the air is, and what associated health effects might be a concern. The AQI focuses on health effects that may be experienced within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air.
2. Control Officer. Control Officer means the District Health Officer of the Washoe County Health District or the person designated by said District Health Officer to enforce these local air pollution control ordinances and regulations as approved by said District Board of Health created pursuant to the interlocal agreement of the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and the County of Washoe, Nevada. (As noted also in **Section 010.042**)
3. District Health Officer. The District Health Officer is the person appointed by the District Board of Health of the Washoe County Health District to administer activities of the District Health Department of said Health District in all matters directly or indirectly affecting public health, pursuant to the authority of state and local health laws, ordinances, and regulations. (As noted also in **Section 010.048**)
4. PM2.5. PM2.5 means particles with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to a nominal 2.5 micrometers.
5. PM10. PM10 means particles with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to a nominal 10 micrometers.

6. Solid Fuel Burning Device. Solid fuel burning device means a device that burns wood, or any other nongaseous or non-liquid fuels, and includes any device burning any solid fuel used for aesthetic or space-heating purposes including but not limited to a fireplace, wood stove, or pellet stove.

SECTION C – STANDARDS

1. Whenever the concentrations of an air contaminant:
 - a. At an air monitoring station operated in accordance with 40 CFR 58 and under the jurisdiction of the Washoe County District Health Department;
 - b. reach or are predicted to reach the levels specified in **Table 1** of this section; and
 - c. are expected to persist at or above the levels specified in **Table 1** of this section;

The Control Officer shall declare that an emergency episode stage exists and take the actions specified in **Sections C.2** and **D** of this regulation.

**TABLE 1
EPISODE CRITERIA LEVELS***

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Stage 1 (Alert)	Stage 2 (Warning)	Stage 3 (Emergency)
Carbon Monoxide	8 Hour	9.4 ppm	15.4 ppm	30.4 ppm
Particulates (PM10)	24 Hour	154 ug/m3	354 ug/m3	424 ug/m3
Particulates (PM2.5)	24 Hour	65.4 ug/m3 (AQI 150)	150.4 ug/m3	250.4 ug/m3
Ozone	8 Hour	0.084 ppm	0.124 ppm	0.404 ppm

* Stage 1 (Alert), Stage 2 (Warning), and Stage 3 (Emergency) episode criteria levels are associated with an AQI of 100, 200, and 300 respectively, unless otherwise noted.

2. The Control Officer and the appropriate law enforcement and public health officials shall take the following control actions upon declaration of the following stages:
 - a. Stage 1
 - (1) A health warning for sensitive persons shall be included in all notifications given pursuant to **Section D.1** of this regulation.

- (2) All open and prescribed burning must be terminated.
 - (3) The use of permitted incinerators shall be terminated. Crematoriums or pathological incinerators may continue to operate if the Control Officer determines that cessation of operation will cause a greater health hazard.
 - (4) A request shall be made to the public to curtail any unnecessary motor vehicle operations.
 - (5) Whenever the measurements of PM2.5, PM10, or carbon monoxide reach, or are predicted to reach Stage 1 levels and adverse meteorological conditions are predicted to persist, operation of any solid fuel burning device shall be suspended unless it can be demonstrated, in accordance with the procedures established by the Control Officer, that such fuels supply the only heat available to the person burning it. The suspension shall remain in effect until all episode stages have been terminated.
 - (6) Sources subject to **Section E.1** of this regulation must commence curtailment of operations as per their submitted and approved plans.
- b. Stage 2: All of the control measures specified in **Section C.2.a** of this regulation shall be implemented under a Stage 2 episode and, in addition:
- (1) The public notification shall be updated to reflect the more severe conditions.
 - (2) For ozone episodes - programs which involve physical exertion by persons using public parks or public recreational facilities shall be suspended. All commercial and industrial activities such as dry cleaning, spray painting and degreasing that emit reactive organic compounds shall be notified to cease operations. Such activities as roofing, asphalt paving and surface coating where the use of large quantities of volatile organic material is involved shall also be prohibited.
 - (3) For carbon monoxide episodes - if the occurrence of this stage is determined to have been due to traffic congestion in that area, take measures to reduce the traffic congestion in that area.
 - (4) For PM10 episodes - dust emitting construction and agricultural activities such as grading, leveling, plowing and digging shall be prohibited.
 - (5) A request shall be made to the general public to avoid the area of the episode.

- c. Stage 3: In addition to the control measures specified in **Sections C.2.a** and **C.2.b** of this regulation, the appropriate law enforcement and civil defense agencies may be requested to:
 - (1) Close all public, commercial and industrial establishments which are not immediately necessary for public health and safety and are within the affected area;
 - (2) Close principal streets within the affected area to the general public;
 - (3) Require emergency carpooling or use of mass transit by the public; and
 - (4) Setup and implement evacuation procedures if deemed necessary.
3. The Control Officer shall declare an episode stage terminated when the concentration of contaminant falls below the criteria level shown in **Section C.1** of this regulation and/or when meteorological data indicate that the contaminant concentration will decrease to below the criteria level.

SECTION D – ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

1. Notification of an episode stage. When an episode stage is declared, the Control Officer shall notify:
 - a. The news media and shall request that they publish or broadcast all appropriate warnings, notices and advisories;
 - b. The Washoe County Manager and the managers of the cities of Reno and Sparks;
 - c. Managers and operators of all stationary sources subject to **Section E.1** of this regulation; and
 - d. Other agencies which, in the opinion of the Control Officer, should be notified.
2. Notification of an episode stage shall include information as to which stage has been predicted or reached, the expected duration of the episode, the geographic boundaries of the affected area, the specific air contaminant for which the stage has been declared, a statement of the public health significance of the episode stage, and the appropriate voluntary or mandatory control measures to be taken, as described in **Section C.2** of this regulation.
3. If an episode Stage 2 or 3 is declared, the Control Officer may request that the Director of the Division of Emergency Management for Washoe County coordinate all emergency control measures.

4. Upon declaration of termination of an episode stage, the Control Officer shall notify those persons and offices specified in **Section D.1** of this regulation. The notice shall also advise which curtailed activities may resume and which activities must remain curtailed, as specified in **Section C.2** of this regulation.

SECTION E – COMPLIANCE AND RECORDS

1. Control Plan for Emission Curtailment. The owner or operator of any stationary or mobile source with the potential to emit fifty (50) tons or more per year of an air contaminant shall, upon request of the Control Officer, prepare and submit a plan for reducing or eliminating such emission in accordance with the episode stages of Alert, Warning and Emergency as defined in these regulations.