

# Pierce County's Clean Air Challenge



What do you REALLY know about the air we breathe in Tacoma and Pierce County? Test your knowledge with these five questions about our air quality:

- 1** During the **WINTERTIME**, what is the biggest source of air pollution in Tacoma and Pierce County?
  - A. Cars and trucks
  - B. Fireworks
  - C. Factories and power plants
  - D. Smoke from fires in people's homes
- 2** Which of the following produces the **LEAST** amount of fine particle pollution?
  - A. Wet or green firewood
  - B. Manufactured logs such as Duraflame
  - C. Dry, untreated firewood
  - D. Garbage
- 3** **Breathing smoke** from a fire can cause which of the following health problems?
  - A. Heart congestion/trouble breathing
  - B. Premature death
  - C. Higher cancer risks
  - D. All of the above
- 4** During the **SUMMERTIME**, what is the biggest source of air pollution in our region?
  - A. Power plants and factories
  - B. Airplanes and railroad transportation
  - C. Cars and trucks
  - D. Fireworks
- 5** Is **ozone** good or bad?
  - A. Always good
  - B. Neither good nor bad
  - C. Always bad
  - D. Good up high – bad nearby

Learn more about the problem and how you can be part of the solution at:

[www.cleanairpiercecouny.org](http://www.cleanairpiercecouny.org)

*Find the answers  
(and more)  
on the flip side!*

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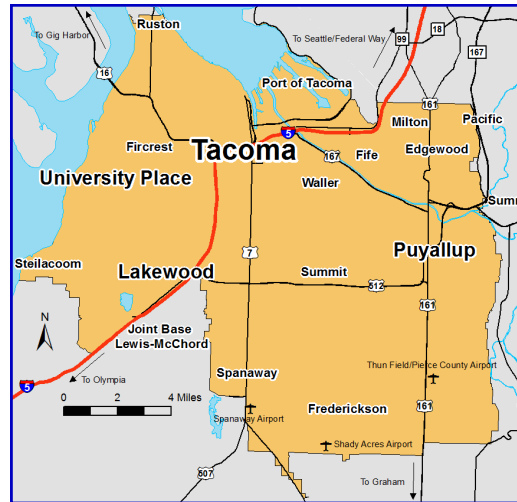
# We have an air pollution problem, Pierce County

During the winter, fine particle pollution in Tacoma and Pierce County reaches unhealthy levels, causing lung and heart problems and health impacts even for healthy people, even for short-term exposures. Our pollution levels are so high that they violate the Federal Clean Air Act, and we need to act fast to clean up our air to avoid economic penalties and keep our community healthy and vibrant.

**Beginning Fall 2012, new programs will reduce pollution in Tacoma and Pierce County:**

- 1) Enhanced burn ban enforcement
- 2) Removal or replacement of old, polluting wood stoves

Funding will be available to help remove older, more polluting "uncertified" wood stoves. Removal of these devices will eventually be required by law, but funding is limited, so apply now for the best chance to receive funding.



Tacoma-Pierce County fine particle pollution "nonattainment" area

## Help clear the air

- Sign up for burn ban alerts
- Sign up for information about wood stove removal program
- Learn more about the problem

## Visit us online

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Burn ban alerts – Wood stove removal program – Updates and info

## Answers to Pierce County's Clean Air Challenge:

- 1) On the average wintertime day in Tacoma and Pierce County, more than 50% of our pollution comes from **wood smoke from fireplaces and wood stoves**. Observe air quality burn bans and replace old polluting wood stoves and inserts with cleaner options to help clear the air.
- 2) **Manufactured logs such as Duraflame** are cleaner choices than regular cordwood (especially if your wood is wet). Remember: it is NEVER legal – or healthy – to burn garbage.
- 3) Exposure to pollution from wood smoke can cause **all of the above** health problems, especially for children, the elderly, and people with pre-existing conditions. Studies show that emergency room visits increase on poor air quality days.
- 4) **Pollution from cars and trucks** is a big problem during the warm summer months. Transportation emissions can lead to unhealthy levels of smog and ozone pollution.
- 5) Ozone is **good when it's high** in the atmosphere to protect us from the sun's harmful rays, but **bad when it's close to the ground**, where it degrades air quality. Ozone is caused when emissions from cars, trucks and solvents "cook" in the sun.

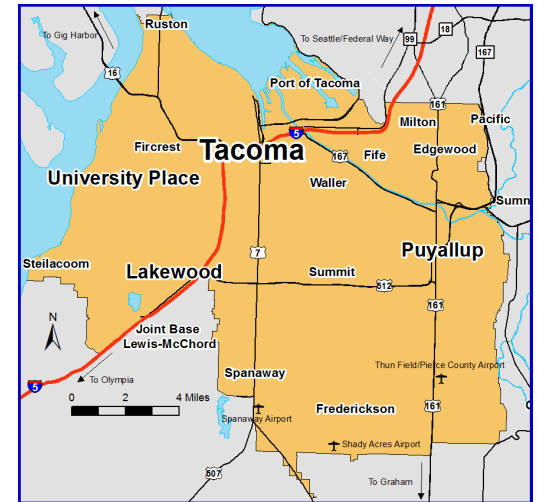
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