

Addressing Residential Wood Smoke Complaints

Residential Wood Smoke Workshop
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New Orleans, LA

Examples of Wood Smoke Complaints

From Burn Wise Website comment page:

- Comment: My name is John and I live in ...Nevada county, CA. A neighbor continuously burns green firewood in his wood stove and the entire area is covered with fumes. Several residents are experiencing severe breathing problems including 1 and soon to be 2 people having to go on oxygen. Nevada County has no rules... regarding wood smoke and are powerless to do anything. What can I do ASAP? Thank you
- Comments: Do homeowners have rights to protect them from other homeowners with wood burning stoves? My neighbor installed a wood burning stove two years ago and the air quality around my house has been terrible. My daughter with asthma has trouble breathing, even the rest of the family feels like we are choking on the smell when we go out side. Just opening the door brings the smell into the house. Is there anything that can be done? ~ Michael

Burn Wise Program Typical Process for Responding to Complaints

- Phone calls – listen to concern, ask location, share state/local/tribal contacts
- Emails – forward those to EPA Regional wood smoke contact
- Regional Office contact typically reaches out to their state/local/tribal contacts

Potentials Responses

- When appropriate encourage direct neighbor to neighbor dialogue, share health and best burn practice info
- Recommend use of HEPA air filter (non-ozone producing)

Potential Regulatory Options Available to Address Complaints

- Opacity Limits
- Visibility Limits
- Nuisance Rules