



Director's Report

OCTOBER 2013

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Know the Code

November begins our wintertime air pollution season in the Truckee Meadows. We begin to see higher fine particulate matter (PM2.5) levels due to increased use of woodstoves, pellet stoves, and fireplaces. Calm winds and nighttime temperature inversions trap pollution in the valleys further increasing PM2.5 levels and occasionally exceeding EPA's health-based air quality standards.



The Air Quality Management Division implemented a color code system in 1987 to inform the community when it is safe and permissible to use their stoves and fireplaces. The "Green, Yellow, Red" program was successful in improving wintertime air quality. An air quality hotline was the primary method to communicate air quality information to the public.

AIR QUALITY COMPARISON FOR OCTOBER

Air Quality Index Range		# OF DAYS OCTOBER 2013	# OF DAYS OCTOBER 2012
GOOD	0 to 50	16	29
MODERATE	51 to 100	15	2
UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	101 to 150	0	0
UNHEALTHY	151 to 200	0	0
VERY UNHEALTHY	201 to 300	0	0
TOTAL		31	31

In 2012, the “Green, Yellow, Red” program was rebranded to “Keep it Clean - Know the Code”. Know the Code continues to use the green, yellow, and red burn codes. The most significant improvement to this program is how information is delivered to the public. In addition to the 24-hour air quality hotline, burn code and air quality information is available via the AQMD website (www.ourcleanair.com), an email list, Facebook, and Twitter. Local television stations also include Know the Code in their weather segments.



Temperature inversions can cause PM2.5 levels to increase rapidly. Although the Yellow code is voluntary, it's very important for the community to reduce burning to prevent pollution from reaching unhealthy levels. If pollution levels continue to rise, then a Red code will be issued where use of woodstoves, pellet stoves, and fireplaces is prohibited.

Everybody's small contributions can add up to big results. Keep it Clean. Know the Code.

Dan Inouye, Acting Division Director

HIGHEST AQI NUMBER BY POLLUTANT

Air Quality

POLLUTANT	OCT 2013	YTD for 2013	OCT 2012	Highest for 2012
CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)	14	24	24	29
OZONE 8 hour (O3)	49	93	48	104
PARTICULATES (PM _{2.5})	78	174	67	105
PARTICULATES (PM ₁₀)	66	97	44	74

For the month of October 2013, the highest Air Quality Index (AQI) values reported was seventy-eight (78) for PM2.5. There were no exceedances of Carbon Monoxide, Ozone or PM10. There were sixteen (16) days the air quality was in the good range, and fifteen (15) days the air quality was in the moderate range.

Transit Connections 2013

The Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County will be hosting a one-day summit on December 6, 2013. It will focus on the importance of transit, specifically its environmental, health, and economic benefits to Washoe County. AQMD staff will be participating on a panel discussion on the Human Side of Transit.

National Weather Service (NWS) Partnership Meeting

Weather is the most significant factor affecting air pollution levels. AQMD staff met with NWS forecasters on October 31 to share resources and improve each organization's program. Social media was an effective tool that AQMD and NWS used during this summer's American and Rim Fires. The AQMD-NWS partnership will be important this winter, especially during elevated PM2.5 episodes when burn codes reach Yellow and Red.

*Dan Inouye, Branch Chief
Planning and Monitoring*

Planning & Monitoring
Activity

Permitting Activity

TYPE OF PERMIT	2013		2012	
	OCTOBER	YTD	OCTOBER	ANNUAL TOTAL
Renewal of Existing Air Permits	84	1170	86	1339
New Authorities to Construct	6	60	7	88
Dust Control Permits	15 (197 acres)	107 (993 acres)	10 (70 acres)	105 (1420 acres)

Wood Stove Certificates	33	302	25	329
WS Dealers Affidavit of Sale	13 (9 replacements)	77 (49 replacements)	25 (16 replacements)	134 (83 replacements)
WS Notice of Exemptions	991 (10 stoves removed)	7217 (73 stoves removed)	625 (15 stoves removed)	7346 (83 stoves removed)

<i>Combined Total for both: Asbestos Assessments and Asbestos Demo and Removal (NESHAP)</i>	84	909	124	1148
Asbestos Assessments	72	729	-	-
Asbestos Demo and Removal (NESHAP)	12	180	-	-

Compliance &
Inspection Activity

Staff reviewed twenty-four (24) sets of plans submitted to the Reno, Sparks or Washoe County Building Departments to assure the activities complied with Air Quality requirements.

Staff conducted forty-seven (47) stationary source renewal inspections and forty-seven (47) gas station inspections in October 2013. Staff also conducted inspections on asbestos removal and construction/dust projects.

Permitting & Enforcement Activity

The Permitting Section continues to receive calls from businesses that are interested in relocating to the Reno-Sparks Area. From what staff has been told, companies typically have to build a minimum of 3 to 6 months into the schedule just for the approval of the air quality permits. We are always pleased to be able to inform them that the turn-around time for a complete minor source application is approximately two weeks. The regulations provide up to 90 days to process a minor source permit but the Permitting Staff takes great pride in being able to process the applications in less than 30 days. It is our hope that this level of customer service will help to influence a company's decision to relocate to our region and contribute to our economic recovery.

The Enforcement Staff completed their required Visible Emission Certification on October 24th. All five members of the Enforcement Section and one member of the Permitting Section successfully completed the certification which satisfies one of the EPA 105 Grant objectives. Josh Restori, Air Quality Specialist II, attended the Asbestos Inspector & Management Planner Certification Course from October 28th through November 1st. With his successful completion of the certification process, all of the Enforcement Staff is now certified to inspect asbestos abatement projects in Washoe County.

*Charlene Albee, Branch Chief
Permitting & Enforcement*

Enforcement Activity

COMPLAINTS	2013*		2012		
	OCTOBER	YTD	OCTOBER	YTD	Annual Total
Asbestos	2	21	0	15	18
Burning	0	4	0	5	8
Construction Dust	2	27	2	30	30
Dust Control Permit	0	11	0	6	7
General Dust	3	39	3	39	46
Diesel Idling	1	2	0	7	8
Odor	0	12	7	14	16
Spray Painting	2	10	1	4	5
Permit to Operate	8	23	10	49	55
Woodstove	1	11	1	15	16
TOTAL	19	160	24	184	209
NOV'S	OCTOBER	YTD	OCTOBER	YTD	Annual Total
Warnings	4	24	4	42	46
Citations	4	27	7	32	40
TOTAL	8	51	11	74	86

* Discrepancies in totals between monthly reports can occur because of data entry delays.

Notices of Violation (NOVs):

There were eight (8) Notice of Violations (NOV's) issued in the month of October 2013. There were four (4) NOV Warnings and four (4) NOV Citations.