

Air Quality Calendar

Oct. 5:
SCAPCA Board of Directors monthly meeting, 8:30 a.m., lower level, Commissioner's Hearing Room, 1026 W. Broadway.

Oct. 7:
Car Care Fair, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Shadle Center Wal-Mart, 2301 W. Wellesley. Free under-the-hood check-ups will be performed by automotive experts.

Oct. 13-15:
Home Idea Show, Spokane Interstate Fairgrounds. Stop by SCAPCA's booth # 177 for fall and winter air quality information.

Oct. 22:
Green Zone Open House, 1-4 p.m., 219-222 N. Havana. For information call WSU Spokane County Cooperative Extension at 477-2048.

Take Note!

On the Air is a bi-monthly publication of the Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority. Its purpose is to educate local citizens on all aspects of outdoor air pollution.

Information Numbers:

SCAPCA: (509) 477-4727
Burning Information: (509) 477-4710
Air Quality Index: (509) 477-2571
SCAPCA 1101 W. College Ave., Suite 403
Spokane, WA 99201
e-mail address: publicinfo@scapca.org
web: www.scapca.org

Oct. 28-29:
Family-a-Fair, Spokane Convention Center. Bring your children by SCAPCA's air quality activity booth for fun, hands-on games and prizes!

Nov. 2:
SCAPCA Board of Directors monthly meeting, 8:30 a.m., lower level, Commissioner's Hearing Room, 1026 W. Broadway.

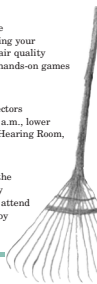
Nov. 17:
AirWatchers Night at the Spokane Chiefs Hockey Game, 7 p.m., Plan to attend this game, sponsored by AirWatch, a winter air quality campaign sponsored by SCAPCA.

Please contact Lisa Woodard, On the Air Editor, at 477-4727, ext. 115 or send a fax to 477-6828, or write to the address below, with any comments, suggestions or story ideas. ■

2001 Board of Directors:
John Roskelley, Spokane County Commissioner, Chair
Mike Brewer, City of Spokane Representative, Vice Chair
Tom Cornwell, Small Cities and Towns Representative
Phil Harris, Spokane County Commissioner
Michele Pope, Member-at-Large ■

Do Your Share for Clean Air

- In Your Yard**
- + Rake and bag for garbage or yard waste collection
 - + Compost or mulch
 - + Haul or hire someone to haul to a local recycling/transfer station
- At Home**
- + Upgrade to a higher efficiency, cleaner burning EPA-certified device
 - + Have your chimney cleaned annually
 - + Burn only dry, seasoned, wood or compressed sawdust logs or pellets
 - + Give your fire a generous air supply, never allowing it to smolder
 - + Check the wood burning status reports before you light, 477-4710
- In Your Car**
- + Get a pre-winter tune-up for your car
 - + Check your tire pressure regularly
 - + Attend the free Car Care Fair, Saturday, October 7, at Shadle Wal-Mart



Air

ON THE

A Newsletter About Clean Air

Provided by the Spokane County Air

Pollution Control Authority

Fall, 2003

Summer Fires and Our Air Quality

The predominant news stories throughout the summer were the raging wildfires in our region of the country. Even as this article is being written, at least 20 fires are still burning in our region. Some are not expected to be out until the snow falls. While smoke from the fires choked most of the state of Montana and many cities and towns in Idaho, this fire season has left Spokane's air quality relatively unscathed.

"For most of this summer favorable winds have kept the smoke from the fires away from Spokane," said Ron Edgar, Chief of Technical Services at Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority (SCAPCA). According to Edgar, there were two fires in Washington that could have had a big impact on Spokane's air quality, had the weather patterns been different.

The Two Forks Fire near the Tri-Cities in late June, impacted Spokane's visibility for two days, with only a slight increase in particulate (smoke) concentrations. The large grass fire near Prosser in late August, had only minimal impact.

"On August 17, a temperature inversion trapped smoke from regional fires in the river valleys, and drainage winds brought smoke from the east, back into the Spokane area," said Edgar. This smoke impacted visibility for much of the day, resulting in calls to SCAPCA from concerned citizens. Although the air looked really bad that day, with Mount Spokane shrouded in haze, there was little increase in particulate levels, as shown by ground level monitoring of particulate not exceeded any of the federal, pollution. To date, Spokane has health-

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based air quality standards. "We have been very lucky regarding the impact of the fires on our air quality, considering how been this year," added Edgar. ■

Permit No. 777
Spokane, WA
FALL
T/S Passage
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SCAPCA
1101 West College, Suite 403
Spokane, WA 99201



View of Mount Spokane on August 16, 2001.



Mt. Spokane disappears during poor visibility on August 17, 2001.

What to do with all of those Fall Leaves?

As the days grow shorter and the nights cooler, our beautiful summer canopy of green turns into glorious variations of yellows and reds. After the leaves are finished showing off their colors and fall to our yards and roads, we are then faced with the inevitable task of cleaning them up. Raking the leaves into piles and burning them just isn't an option anymore in most urban areas, due to the negative health impacts of smoke. And raking leaves into the streets isn't a good practice. Leaves and other debris can clog storm water grates, along the curbs. When leaves decompose and dry up, it can become an air quality problem. The dirt and dust is kicked-up into the air by passing vehicles. So, what can we do with our leaves this fall?

Compost! Place leaves into a pile and by next Spring, you'll have an excellent compost for your spring plantings. Free

Gear Up for Winter Heating

Cool weather is coming and so are higher heating costs. You can save money by getting your house in shape for the winter season. Here are a few tips to help you keep warm, save on fuel costs, and reduce air pollution.

- + Get a professional "tune-up" for your furnace every year. Clean air filters once a month.
- + When replacing appliances, including heating and air conditioning units, make sure the new products are energy efficient.
- + Seal leaks around windows and doors with weather stripping or caulking.
- + Consider adding insulation in attics or above ceilings. Make sure air ducts are insulated, too.

"how to" composting seminars are held throughout Spokane County during October. Refer to the schedule below.

Mulch! Put nature's recycling system to work in our own backyards. Spread the leaves around shrubs, trees and other plantings. Mulching keeps soil moist, smothering weeds, prevents soil loss and releases nutrients as the leaves decompose.

Bag! Gather the leaves and put in with your garbage collection or keep separate if you are enrolled in a yard waste curbside pick-up program. Fall yard clean up is not a glamorous task, yet it's a small price to pay for the beauty that nature provides, taking care of those leaves, soon after they hit the ground, keeps your yard looking its best, and helps our air and water quality stay clean and healthy. 

- + Consider buying a "programmable" thermostat, which can be set to automatically reduce temperatures by night and raise them by day.
- + Get some help from the sun—keep blinds open by day, close them at night.

TIPS for Wood Burners

Wood burning stoves and fireplace inserts can be a great addition to your home, but if the proper burning techniques aren't followed, they can heat inefficiently and pollute the air. Here are some tips for heating your home with wood:

- + Use only EPA certified wood burning devices.
- + Check the wood burning report before lighting a fire; call 477-4710.

Free Composting Seminars

Tues., Oct. 10
North Spokane Library,
44 East Hawthorne Road
Thurs., Oct. 12
Finch Arboretum,
3404 West Woodland Boulevard
Mon., Oct. 16
Shadle Library,
2111 West Wellesley
Mon., Oct. 16
Argonne Library,
4322 North Argonne Road
Tues., Oct. 17
Indian Trail Library,
4909 West Barnes
Wed., Oct. 18
Cooperative Extension,
222 North Havana
Wed., Oct. 25
Valley Library,
12004 East Main

Composting Fairs:
Sat., Oct. 21
Finch Arboretum,
11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 22
Green Zone,
210-222 N. Havana, 1-4 p.m.

Seminars start at 6:30 p.m. and last one hour

- + Burn only clean, dry seasoned wood.
- + Watch your chimney for smoke.
- + Inspect often, keep your wood heater and chimney in tip top shape.
- + Never burn garbage, paper, wood or other prohibited fuels (Home Heatin Tips from Alliance to Save energy) 


Care for your Car. Care for the Air.

What is the one amenity that we rely upon the most, every single day? Our cars! And, when our cars aren't running at top notch, it can be stressful, not only on us, but on our air quality, too.

When the weather turns cold, cars just don't operate as efficiently as they do when it's warmer. This is one reason why levels of carbon monoxide, an invisible pollutant emitted from our cars, are highest during the winter months.

Now is a perfect time to get your car "winter ready" during October's National Car Care Month, a nationwide effort to promote car maintenance and repair for cleaner air, increased fuel efficiency and safer highways.

A well-tuned car will save you money in gas and repairs, while reducing unnecessary and unhealthy air pollution.

- Here are some tips to get your car ready for winter
- + Schedule regular tune-ups to ensure your engine is running smoothly.
 - + Change the oil regularly—this enhances the life of the engine.
 - + Replace dirty air filters—this reduces air pollution and increases fuel efficiency.
 - + Check tire pressure monthly—you will increase mileage and decrease wear. In fact, five percent of a car's fuel can be wasted by under inflated tires.
 - + Check engine fluid levels twice a month.
 - + Inspect fan belts and hoses monthly. October is Car Care Month. Care for your car. Care for the air. 

Teachers: Register Today!

Math, Science and Social Studies teachers from Spokane County High Schools are invited to participate in a hands-on teacher training workshop on Environmental Risk Assessment and Air Quality.

The Environmental Risk and Air Quality Workshop introduces new materials and showcases ways educators can engage students in real-world applications to science, social studies and mathematics. Participants will get a concise introduction to air pollution issues and environmental risk, as well as hands on experience to assist their students to learn the rationale for and the mechanics of risk assessment, risk management and risk communications.

The workshop will take place at Gonzaga University, October 19, 2000. Those attending the workshop can earn clock hours through ESD 101. Space is limited, so call today and reserve your spot! For more information call Lisa Woodard 477-4727, ext. 115.

Interactive CD offers Fun for Schools!

Students across Spokane County can test their knowledge of air pollution topics and have fun playing Air Pollution Jeopardy, with just a touch of a finger! The Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority is pleased to offer a fun and easy-to-use CD to interested schools and other groups.

Attend the Free Car Care Fair

Don't miss the FREE Car Care Fair, Saturday, October 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Shadle Center Wal-Mart for a FREE vehicle check-up. Automotive experts will provide a FREE under-the-hood check up of your car, including belts, hoses, vital fluids, and fire condition. Plus, the "Lights On" program will provide free replacement of any burned out exterior light bulbs, courtesy of Automotive Service Association and NAPA Auto Parts. Don't miss this year's Car Care Fair, Saturday, October 7, 9 a.m.—3 p.m., at Shadle Center WalMart.

The annual Car Care Fair is made possible by Automotive Service Association, Spokane Chapter, NAPA Auto Parts; Spokane Community College's Automotive Program; American Lung Association of Washington, Spokane Branch; and SCAPCA

The CD includes Air Pollution Jeopardy, and information on topics such as asbestos, wood burning, automobiles, and the "Top Ten" things people can do to reduce air pollution. Call Lisa Woodard, at 477-4727, ext. 115, and order your CD today! 