

23 JANUARY 1997

Civil Engineering

AIR POLLUTION EPISODES



COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

NOTICE: This publication is available digitally on the AFDPO/PP WWW site at:
<http://afpubs.hq.af.mil>

OPR: 62 CES/CEV (Mr Michael J. Grenko)
Supersedes 62 AWR 19-1, 15 October 1993

Certified by: 62 CES//CC (Lt Col Peter J. Baldetti)
Pages: 7
Distribution: F

This instruction establishes responsibilities and procedures for reducing air pollution during the successive stages of an air pollution episode and is applicable to all organizations, including tenant units assigned or attached to McChord Air Force Base, Washington. This publication implements AFI 32-7040 and is pursuant to 40 CFR, Part 51, Appendix L and WAC 173-435-040.

1. Introduction:

1.1. Air pollution episodes, as used in this regulation, include both "air pollution episodes" as declared by Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE) and "air impairments" as declared by the Puget Sound Air Pollution Control (PSAPCA). Air pollution episodes occur under meteorological conditions which reduce the effective volume of air into which air contaminant sources are introduced. When such conditions occur, there is a possible danger that normal operations at air contaminant sources will be detrimental to public health and safety. The avoidance of high contaminant concentrations during an episode requires a plan which will provide for rapid short-term emission reduction. Emission sources on base include any open fires (fire department training fires), aircraft exhaust and other activities which discharge pollutants into the air. It is Air Force policy to cooperate with state and regional authorities in this regard. Air pollution advisories are issued by the PSAPCA and relayed throughout the base by the Base Commander and staff. Following receipt of this notification, base activities shall implement the measures outlined in **Attachment 1** and **Attachment 2** and employ whatever procedures are necessary to do so.

1.2. As background information relative to air pollution episodes affecting McChord Air Force Base, during the period 1979-1989 there were 15 WDOE air pollution episodes, none of which exceeded the Forecast Stage. The first PSAPCA air impairments were in 1988. During the winter of 1988-1989, there were seven PSAPCA air impairments. The PSAPCA has suggested that up to three Forecast Stages or air impairments a year, with a duration of 24 to 72 hours, be used as a basis for planning. The declaration of any air pollution episode will specify the geographic area to which it applies. Air

impairments are declared and terminated by the PSAPCA. The Director of the WDOE, or a representative, may declare and terminate the Forecast, Alert and Warning Stages of a WDOE Air Pollution Episode. The Governor will declare and terminate the Emergency Stage of a WDOE Air Pollution Episode. In order to avert imminent danger to public health and safety, the State may order stopping and prohibiting of motor vehicle travel and traffic.

2. Terms Explained:

2.1. Stage: "Forecast" - The Forecast Stage indicates the presence of meteorological conditions conducive to the accumulation of air contaminants. A Forecast Stage will be declared when an air stagnation advisory is issued by the National Weather Service or there is equivalent indication of stagnant atmospheric conditions forecast to persist for 24 hours. Declaration of this stage will activate increased air quality surveillance.

2.2. Stage: "Alert" - The Alert Stage is that concentration of pollutants at which first stage control actions are to begin. Meteorological conditions are such that the pollutant concentrations can be expected to remain at specified levels for 21 hours or more, or increase unless control actions are taken.

2.3. Stage: "Warning" - This stage indicates that air quality is continuing to degrade and that additional control actions are necessary. Meteorological conditions are such that pollutant concentrations can be expected to remain at specified levels for 12 or more hours or increase unless control actions are taken.

2.4. Stage: "Emergency" - The Emergency Stage indicates that air quality is continuing to degrade toward a level of significant harm to the health of persons and that the most stringent control actions are necessary. Meteorological conditions are such that this condition can be expected to remain at specified levels for 12 or more hours.

2.5. Stage: "Termination"- Once declared, any stage reached by application of specified criteria will remain in effect until the criteria for that level are no longer met. At such time, the next lower stage will be assumed. When conditions improve to where the criteria are no longer met for any episode stage, the episode will be terminated.

3. Responsibilities:

3.1. The 62d Support Group Commander (62 SPTG/CC) is responsible for ordering compliance by Base and Wing activities with the pollution reduction procedures. ([Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 2](#))

3.2. The 62 SPTG Commander is responsible for ensuring Base compliance with the pollution procedures. ([Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 2](#))

3.3. The 62d Airlift Wing unit and tenant commanders are responsible to ensure compliance with the pollution reduction procedures of [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 2](#).

3.4. The 62d Civil Engineer Squadron Commander (62 CES/CC) is responsible for:

3.4.1. Through 62 CES Environmental Management Flight (CEV), relaying information relative to the air pollution episode to all applicable base agencies.

3.4.2. Through 62 CES Base Housing Office (CEH), notifying occupants of military housing with fireplaces of the burning ban.

3.5. The Base Weather Station is responsible for:

3.5.1. Monitoring the progress of meteorological conditions and providing information to the staff and commander.

3.5.2. Advising the Base Fire Station, upon request, of meteorological conditions conducive to the build up of air contaminants.

3.6. The 62d Medical Operations Squadron Bioenvironmental Engineering (62 MDOS/SGOAB) is responsible for advising the 62 SPTG Commander as to health effects of any pollution event.

3.7. The PSAPCA and WDOE will make announcements.

4. Procedures:

4.1. The CES Environmental Management Flight, through the 62 SPTG Commander, will relay information relative to an air pollution episode in association with the Bioenvironmental Engineer to all applicable agencies.

4.2. All base organizations, including tenants, clubs, recreational facilities with fireplaces, and personnel in housing with fireplaces, will develop procedures to comply with the actions required in [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 2](#), and implement these procedures upon the declaration of an air pollution episode.

4.3. Planning should include the possibility that motor vehicle traffic and travel may be severely curtailed during an emergency stage. Associated problems of personnel traveling to and from the base should be considered.

4.4. Procedures are not to adversely effect the Commander's prerogatives on how to continue essential services and mission activities related to national security.

JAN D. EAKLE, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 62d Support Group

Attachment 1

SOURCE-SPECIFIC CURTAILMENT/CONTROL ACTIONS

ACTIVITY	STAGES				
	AIR IMPAIRMENT	Forecast	Alert	Warning	Emergency
62 SPTG/CC	Initiate notification to Base and Wing activities.	Update notification to Base and Wing activities. Review procedures for succeeding stages.	Update notification of status of episode. Review procedures for succeeding stages.	Update notification of status of episode. Direct reduction in base and Wing activities consistent with mission requirements.	Update notification of status of episode. Direct reduction in Base and Wing activities consistent with mission requirements.
62 OSS/OSW	Monitor meteorological situation.	Monitor meteorological situation.	Monitor meteorological situation.	Monitor meteorological situation.	Monitor meteorological situation.
62 OG/CC	Terminate open fires. Review procedures for WDOE episode stages.	Review procedures for succeeding stages.	Reduce activities not mission essential, including use of military vehicles.	Minimize activities not mission essential.	With concurrence of 15 AF, terminate activities not mission essential.
62 LG/CC	Terminate open fires. Review procedures for WDOE episode stages.	Review procedures for succeeding stages.	Reduce activities not mission essential, including use of military vehicles.	Minimize activities not mission essential.	Terminate activities not mission essential, consistent with flying commitments.
62 APS/CC	Terminate open fires. Review procedures for WDOE episode stages.	Review procedures for succeeding stages.	Reduce activities not mission essential, including use of military vehicles.	Minimize activities not mission essential.	Terminate activities not mission essential.
62 MDOS/SGOAB	Advise the 62 SPTG Commander on health effects.	Advise the 62 SPTG Commander on health effects.	Advise the 62 SPTG Commander on health effects.	Advise the 62 SPTG Commander on health effects.	Advise the 62 SPTG Commander on health effects.

STAGES					
ACTIVITY	AIR IMPAIR- MENT	Forecast	Alert	Warning	Emergency
62 CES/CC	Advise the 62 SPTG Commander. Review procedures for WDOE episode stages. Terminate open fires. Defer fire training (open burning) until termination of episode. Notify occupants of military family housing with fireplaces/wood stoves of burning ban.	Advise the 62 SPTG Commander. Review procedures for WDOE episode stages. Terminate open fires. Defer fire training (open burning) until termination of episode. Notify occupants of military family housing with fireplaces/wood stoves of burning ban.	Advise the 62 SPTG Commander. Alert contractors to reduce hauling, vapor and particulate producing activities. Reduce activities not mission essential, including military vehicles.	Advise the 62 SPTG Commander. Stop contractor and particulate producing activities.	Advise the 62 SPTG Commander. Defer activities not required immediately for mission support.
ALL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING TENANTS	Review procedures for succeeding episode stages.	Review procedures for succeeding episode stages.	Reduce activities not mission essential, including use of military vehicles.	Minimize activities not mission essential, including use of military vehicles.	Terminate activities not mission essential.

Attachment 2

GENERAL EMISSION REDUCTION ACTIONS

(Reference: 40 CFR, Appendix L to Part 51)

SOURCE	STAGES		
	ALERT	WARNING	EMERGENCY
Open Burning (Includes Fire Fighting Training)	STOP. There shall be no open burning by any persons of tree waste, vegetation, refuse, or debris in any form.	STOP. There shall be no open burning by any persons of tree waste, vegetation, refuse, or debris in any form.	STOP. There shall be no open burning by any persons of tree waste, vegetation, refuse, or debris in any form.
Incinerators (N/A Presently for MAFB)	The use of incinerators for the disposal of any form of solid waste shall be limited to the hours between 12 noon and 4 p.m.	The use of incinerators for the disposal of any form of solid waste or liquid waste shall be prohibited.	The use of incinerators for the disposal of any form of solid waste or liquid waste shall be prohibited.
Fuel-burning Equipment	Persons operating fuel-burning equipment which require boiler lancing or soot blowing shall perform such operations only between the hours of 12 noon and 4 p.m.	Persons operating fuel-burning equipment which require boiler lancing or soot blowing shall perform such operations only between the hours of 12 noon and 4 p.m.	Persons operating fuel-burning equipment which require boiler lancing or soot blowing shall perform such operations only between the hours of 12 noon and 4 p.m.
Motor Vehicles	Persons operating motor vehicles should eliminate all unnecessary operations.	Persons operating motor vehicles must reduce operations by the use of car pools and increased use of public transportation and elimination of unnecessary operation.	The use of motor vehicles is prohibited except in emergencies with the approval of local or state police.

SOURCE	STAGES		
	ALERT	WARNING	EMERGENCY
Places of Employment	Restrict to necessary operations only.	Curtail non-critical activities and eliminate unnecessary operations.	Prohibit non-critical activities. All construction work, except that which must proceed to avoid emergent physical harm, shall immediately cease operations, plus banks, joint meetings, credit agencies, exchanges and services, retail laundries, photographic studios, beauty/barber shops, automobile repair and garages, cinema/theater, elementary/secondary schools, professional/vocational schools, libraries.

NOTE: All other installation activities not included in this order will institute such actions as will result in maximum reduction of air pollutants from their operation by ceasing, curtailing, or postponing operations which emit air pollutants to the extent possible without causing injury to persons or damage to equipment.