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**Subject:** News Release: Stage 1 Burn Ban Lifted for Cowlitz and Lewis Counties  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 5, 2011

## **Stage 1 Burn Ban Lifted for Cowlitz and Lewis Counties Stage 2 Burn Ban in Clark County Remains in Effect**

**VANCOUVER, Wash.** – Due to favorable weather patterns and improving air quality conditions, the Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) is removing the Stage 1 Burn Ban called for Cowlitz County and Lewis County effective 5:00 p.m. on January 5, 2011. The restrictions on using wood stoves and fireplaces in Cowlitz County and Lewis County will then be lifted. Residents may once again use their wood stoves and fireplaces, but are asked to burn as cleanly as possible. For those who heat with wood, please remember that it is always illegal to produce excess chimney smoke and to smoke out your neighbor. You know you are burning properly when you do not see any smoke coming from your chimney. For more information about cleaner wood burning techniques, please visit [www.swcleanair.org/burnclean.html](http://www.swcleanair.org/burnclean.html).

Outdoor burning is allowed in Cowlitz and Lewis Counties with the proper permits in areas where burning has not been permanently banned. Burning at any time adds to the air pollution levels in your local neighborhood, and residents are encouraged to seek alternatives to burning throughout the year.

In Clark County, the Stage 2 Burn Ban remains in place due to slower than expected clearing

of high levels of air pollution from the last few days. Agency staff will continue to monitor the weather and air quality conditions for signs of sustained improvement. Under the Stage 2 Burn Ban still in effect for Clark County, all wood heating is prohibited, including certified units, unless it is your sole source of heat.

“Contrary to what normally occurs, the light rain in Clark County is not improving our air quality and, thus, we cannot justify lifting the burn ban without a marked and sustained improvement in air quality,” said Bob Elliott, executive director at the Southwest Clean Air Agency.

Founded in 1968, the mission of the Southwest Clean Air Agency is to preserve and enhance the air quality in southwest Washington. Serving the counties of Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania and Wahkiakum, SWCAA is responsible for protecting the public’s health through the enforcement of federal, state and local air quality standards and regulations.

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