



Fact Sheet

Rule for Air Pollution Episodes (40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 49 Section 137)

Federal Air Rules for Indian Reservations in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington

What is the FARR? The Federal Air Rules for Indian Reservations in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, also called the FARR, is a set of air quality regulations established under the Clean Air Act. The FARR creates rules to manage activities that cause air pollution.

The FARR applies to all residents (both tribal members and non-tribal members) and businesses located within the exterior boundaries of reservations in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The ownership status of land on the reservation does not affect how the rules apply.

What will the FARR do? The FARR will protect human health and the environment for 200,000 people on reservations in the Pacific Northwest. The FARR will also:

- Establish federal air quality rules where EPA-approved state or tribal air quality programs do not exist
- Make air quality standards on reservations consistent with standards off of reservations
- Build capacity for tribes to develop tribal air programs.

Fact Sheet Series

The FARR includes 16 rules that address various air quality issues:

- 49.122 Partial Delegation of Administrative Authority to a Tribe
- 49.124 Visible Emissions
- 49.125 Particulate Matter
- 49.126 Fugitive Particulate Matter
- 49.127 Woodwaste Burners
- 49.128 Particulate Matter Emissions from Wood Products Industry Sources
- 49.129 Sulfur Dioxide
- 49.130 Sulfur Content of Fuels
- 49.131 Open Burning
- 49.132 General Open Burning Permits
- 49.133 Agricultural Burning Permits
- 49.134 Forestry and Silvicultural Burning Permits
- 49.135 Emissions Detrimental to Public Health or Welfare
- 49.136 [Reserved]
- 49.137 Air Pollution Episodes
- 49.138 Registration of Air Pollution Sources and Report of Emissions
- 49.139 Rule for Non-Title V Operating Permits

What is the purpose of this rule?

The Rule for Air Pollution Episodes establishes procedures for the EPA, and requirements for the owners and operators of air pollution sources, to address the buildup of certain air pollutants when the air is stagnant (not moving). This rule allows the EPA to issue air stagnation advisories, air pollution alerts, air pollution warnings, or air pollution emergencies.

Why is this rule important?

The air pollution advisories, alerts, warnings, or emergencies will allow the EPA to inform the public when the air quality can be harmful to human health. These announcements will also inform people about the actions that can be taken to limit their exposure to the air pollutants and to reduce the air pollutant emissions.

To whom does this rule apply?

This rule is for each of the 39 Indian reservations in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington specified in the FARR. This rule applies to the EPA and to any person who owns or operates an air pollution source on these reservations.

What are the requirements of this rule?

The EPA may issue an air stagnation advisory, alert, warning, or emergency when the EPA determines that air pollutants are building up to the point that human health could be threatened. The conditions for issuing an advisory, alert, warning, or emergency are listed below.

- **Air stagnation advisory.** The EPA may issue an air stagnation advisory when weather conditions over a large area may lead to a buildup of air pollution.
- **Air pollution alert.** The EPA may issue an air pollution alert if any of the following pollutant levels are reached or are projected to be reached, and the levels are expected to continue over 24 hours
 - Particulate matter (PM₁₀)—350 micrograms per cubic meter, 24-hour average
 - Carbon monoxide—17 milligrams per cubic meter (15 parts per million), 8-hour average
 - Sulfur dioxide—800 micrograms per cubic meter (0.3 parts per million), 24-hour average
 - Ozone—400 micrograms per cubic meter (0.2 parts per million), 1-hour average

**What are the requirements of this rule?
(continued).**

- **Air pollution alert (continued).**
 - Nitrogen dioxide—1,130 micrograms per cubic meter (0.6 parts per million), 1-hour average and 282 micrograms per cubic meter (0.15 parts per million), 24-hour average.
- **Air pollution warning.** EPA may issue an air pollution warning if any of the following pollutant levels are reached or are projected to be reached, and the levels are expected to continue over 24 hours.
 - Particulate matter (PM₁₀)—420 micrograms per cubic meter, 24-hour average
 - Carbon monoxide—34 milligrams per cubic meter (30 parts per million), 8-hour average
 - Sulfur dioxide—1,600 micrograms per cubic meter (0.6 parts per million), 24-hour average
 - Ozone—800 micrograms per cubic meter (0.4 parts per million), 1-hour average
 - Nitrogen dioxide—2,260 micrograms per cubic meter (1.2 parts per million), 1-hour average and 565 micrograms per cubic meter (0.3 parts per million), 24-hour average.
- **Air pollution emergency.** The EPA may issue an air pollution emergency if any of the following pollutant levels are reached or are projected to be reached, and the levels are expected to continue over 24 hours.
 - Particulate matter (PM₁₀)—500 micrograms per cubic meter, 24-hour average
 - Carbon monoxide—46 milligrams per cubic meter (40 parts per million), 8-hour average
 - Sulfur dioxide—2,100 micrograms per cubic meter (0.8 parts per million), 24-hour average
 - Ozone—1,000 micrograms per cubic meter (0.5 parts per million), 1-hour average
 - Nitrogen dioxide—3,000 micrograms per cubic meter (1.6 parts per million), 1-hour average and 750 micrograms per cubic meter (0.4 parts per million), 24-hour average.

An air pollution alert, warning, or emergency remains in effect until EPA makes a new determination of air pollution levels. Then EPA can issue a new alert, warning, or emergency, or EPA can end the alert, warning, or emergency.

EPA will request air stagnation advisories, alerts, warnings, and emergencies be broadcast on local television and radio stations in the affected areas and be posted on the television and radio station Web sites. The advisories, alerts, warnings, and emergencies will also be posted on EPA's Region 10 Web site and where possible, on the Web sites of affected tribes.

Except for cultural and traditional fires, open burning is banned during an air stagnation advisory, alert, warning, or emergency.

During an air stagnation advisory or alert, EPA will also request air pollution sources to take voluntary actions to reduce their emissions. People should not use wood stoves or fireplaces unless they provide their only source of heat. People should reduce the use of motor vehicles as much as possible. Industrial sources should limit operations or switch to a cleaner fuel if possible.

During a warning or emergency, EPA may issue an order requiring air pollution sources to stop or reduce their emissions.

When does this rule take effect?

This rule is effective June 7, 2005. The final rule was published in the *Federal Register* on April 8, 2005 (67 FR 18074).

Where can the public get more information about this rule?

The final rule is available at the EPA Region 10 FARR website www.epa.gov/r10earth/FARR.htm. The FARR website provides additional background information on the rule and implementation of the FARR. The FARR Hotline is available at 1-800-424-4EPA to provide information, permit forms and respond to questions.