



Fairbanks North Star Borough Office of the Mayor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 12, 2015, Fairbanks, Alaska – AT 3:30 PM

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STAGE 3 AIR QUALITY ALERT FOR NORTH POLE – valid until 12:00 NOON Friday, November 13, 2015

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Air Quality Division has declared a “Stage 3 Air Quality Alert” for the North Pole Region of the Air Quality Control Zone. This alert has been implemented due to PM2.5 concentrations that have exceeded the 12 hour threshold of 55µg/m³. As of 12 PM today, the 12 hour average is 104µg/m³.

Once a Stage 3 Alert is in effect, no new fuel source may be added to the combustions chamber or firebox of any solid fuel burning appliances, masonry heaters, pellet fuel burning appliances, cook stoves, fireplaces, or waste oil burning appliances. The existing burning fuel is allowed until the fire has burned out. No waste oil may be added to a waste oil burning appliance. Residents should rely instead on their home’s alternate, cleaner source of heat (such as a furnace, boiler or electric baseboard heaters) until the Stage 3 air alert is cancelled.

Outdoor burning is prohibited including burn barrels and non-permitted incinerators. This does not include recreational fires such as bonfires, campfires, ceremonial fires and the use of fire pits.

These restrictions shall not apply during a power failure or to EPA-certified solid fuel burning appliances; EPA Phase II qualified hydronic heaters with an annual average emission rating of 2.5 grams or less, masonry heaters or pellet fuel burning appliances when the temperature is below -15 degrees Fahrenheit as recorded by the NOAA/National Weather Service website for the Fairbanks International Airport: <http://w1.weather.gov/obhistory/PAFA.html>.

If a building owner or other person with a property or managerial interest in the building has an approved “No Other Adequate Source of Heat” (NOASH) designation, the building owner is exempted from complying with the Stage 3 air alert restrictions for that building. Applications can be obtained at the Air Quality Division, 3175 Peger Road in Fairbanks or online at: <http://www.aqfairbanks.com/wp-content/uploads/NOASH-affidavit-3-2015.pdf>.

For further information or questions, please contact the FNSB Air Quality Division directly at 459-1005 or via email at aqjp@fnsb.us.

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Attachments/Links:

1. Affidavit of No Other Adequate Source of Heat (NOASH) (.pdf)
2. FNSB Air Quality Division Q & A (.pdf)
3. Approved Air Quality Control Zone Map (.pdf)
4. FNSB Air Quality Division website: <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>
5. AQ Fairbanks, Finding Local Solutions to Our Air Quality Issues: <http://www.aqfairbanks.com/>

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Fairbanks North Star Borough Department of Transportation

3175 Peger Road • PO Box 71267 • Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267 • (907) 459-1005 FAX 459-1006

Affidavit of No Other Adequate Source of Heat

I _____, the owner or other person with property or
(Printed Name)
managerial interest in a building located at _____,
(Property Address)

requests a waiver to permit the use of the solid fuel or waste oil burning appliance(s) located on the property during stage 2 and/or 3 air quality alerts as set forth by FNSB Code 8.21.043.

(Initial all that apply)

- _____ The building relies on a solid fuel or waste oil burning appliance as its sole source of heat.
- _____ The building has no adequate heating source without using a solid fuel or waste oil burning appliance.
- _____ Complying with an alert restriction would result in damage to property including damage to the appliance itself and its heating system components.
- _____ An economic hardship requires the building use of a solid fuel or waste oil burning appliance.

Certification: I understand that by signing below I am requesting a waiver from the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB), and that filing a false affidavit will result in a minimum fine of \$500.00 and denial or cancellation of a waiver. I also understand that this is a waiver only with respect to the restrictions imposed during an alert, that the waiver applies only when the factual circumstances initialed above actually exist and the waiver does not excuse compliance with any other air control measures imposed by Borough code or State law.

(Building owner or other person with property or managerial interest in the building) _____
(Signature)

_____ _____
(Printed Name) (Date)

Affidavits are required to be notarized

Approved / Disapproved by: _____, _____ on _____ Expires: _____
(Printed Name) (Signature) (Date) (Date)



Fairbanks North Star Borough Air Quality Division – Q & A

Q *I burn wood to heat my home. Are there going to be times I cannot use my wood stove this winter?*

A Burn restrictions **do not apply to you at all** if you live outside the air quality control zone. [See map on the back]

Even if you live in the air quality control zone, you can be exempted from any burn bans **if your wood stove is your only adequate source of heat or if economic hardship requires you to use your wood stove.** There is no fee to apply for this exemption.

You may obtain the NOASH Exemption Request from the AQ Division office or from the website: <http://www.aqfairbanks.com/wp-content/uploads/NOASH-affidavit-3-2015.pdf>

If you live in the air quality control zone and you are not exempted you may always use your wood stove even during a burn restriction if you are using an EPA Certified appliance, masonry heater or pellet fuel burning appliance and **the temperature is below -15** as recorded at the Fairbanks International Airport.

Q *I have an existing wood stove that I use in the winter - generally what should I know about borough rules?*

A Burn only those items listed in the stove manufacturer's manual as acceptable fuel.

Burn dry wood with a moisture content of 20% or less.

Don't create excessive smoke that unreasonably interferes with your neighbor's comfort and enjoyment of life or property.

Q *I plan on purchasing a new wood stove or hydronic heater –what should I know?*

A Only Borough listed appliances can be installed in the $PM_{2.5}$ Nonattainment area.

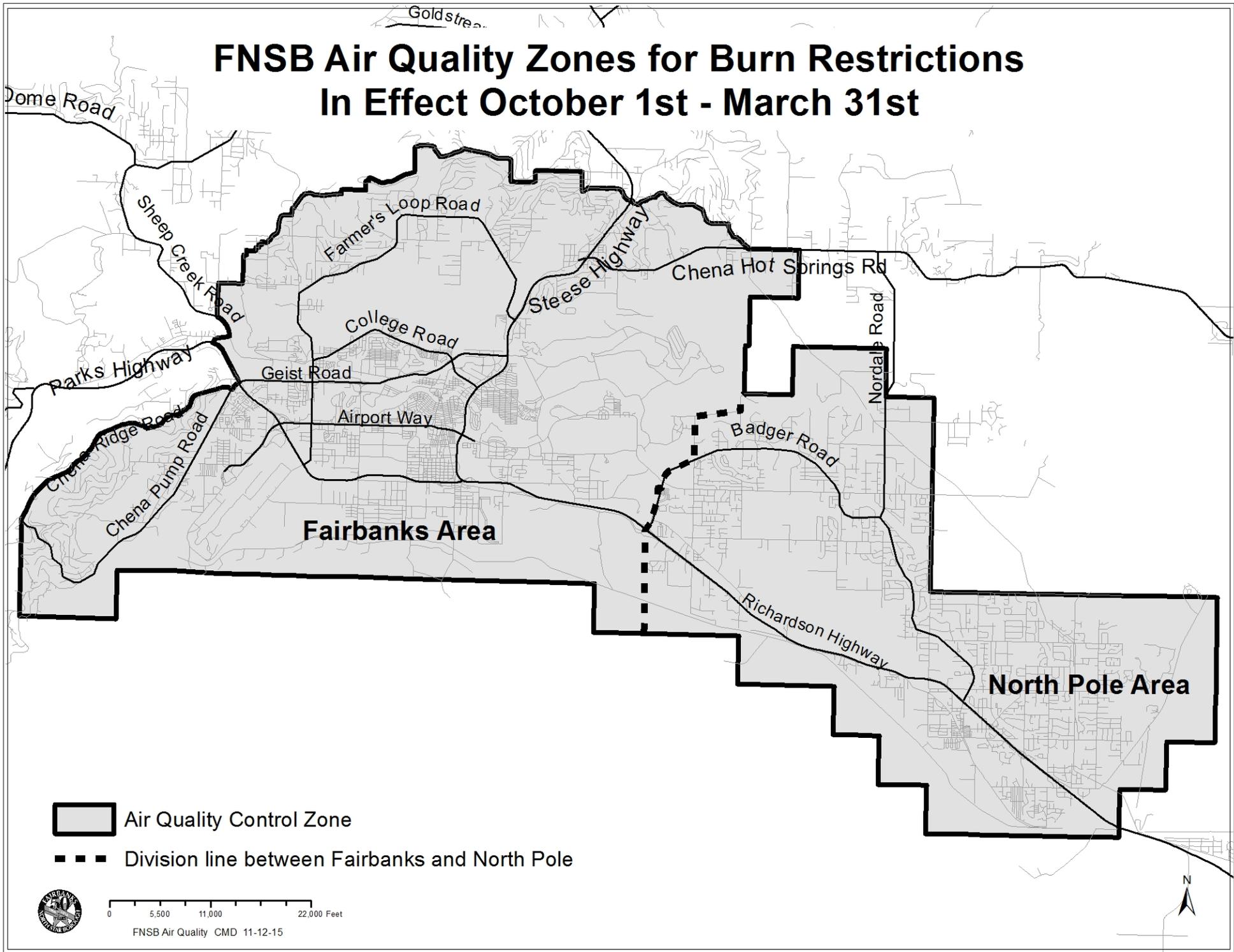
The borough has a wood stove change out program that can financially assist borough residents to replace older stoves with more efficient wood, pellet or oil burning appliance.

If you are installing a hydronic heater for the first time on your property, do not install it less than three hundred thirty feet (330 ft.) from the closest property line or six hundred sixty feet (660 ft.) from a school, clinic, hospital or senior housing unit. Variances of these standards may be granted for good cause.

There are several alert "reader boards" around town as well as alert notifications issued via social media from the FNSB and the Air Quality Division Facebook pages.

****Borough staff are available to answer questions and provide assistance to help residents to heat their homes more efficiently and to improve air quality. Please call (907) 459-1005 or send an email to: aqip@fnsb.us.***

FNSB Air Quality Zones for Burn Restrictions In Effect October 1st - March 31st



Air Quality Control Zone



Division line between Fairbanks and North Pole



0 5,500 11,000 22,000 Feet

FNSB Air Quality CMD 11-12-15

