

**MARICOPA COUNTY
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL REGULATIONS
REGULATION VI – EMERGENCY EPISODES**

**RULE 600
EMERGENCY EPISODES**

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**RULE 600
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SECTION 100 – GENERAL

- 101 PURPOSE:** To establish criteria used to determine when air pollutant concentrations are significantly elevated and to establish appropriate control actions to prevent the occurrence of ambient air pollutant concentrations which would cause significant harm to the health of persons. The advisories described in this rule are not the same as a Health Watch or High Pollution Advisory issued by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). A Health Watch or High Pollution Advisory is issued when air pollution levels are expected to approach or exceed the federal health based air quality standards. The federal health based air quality standards are lower than the thresholds for air pollution alerts, warnings, and emergencies described in this rule.
- 102 EPISODE PROCEDURES GUIDELINES:** Guidelines for the procedures and communication steps to be followed during an air pollution episode are presented in this rule and in the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality’s “Procedures for Prevention of Emergency Episodes,” amended as of August 2018 (and no future edition).

SECTION 200 – DEFINITIONS: For the purpose of this rule, the following definition shall apply, in addition to those definitions found in Rule 100 (General Provisions and Definitions) of these rules. In the event of any inconsistency between any of the Maricopa County air pollution control rules, the definition in this rule takes precedence.

- 201 EMERGENCY EPISODE PLAN:** A system designed to reduce the levels of air contaminants which may reach or have reached the level which may be harmful to health, and to protect that portion of the population at risk.
- 202 POLLUTANT OF CONCERN:** If an air quality alert, warning, or emergency is declared for:
- 202.1** Sulfur dioxide (SO₂), the pollutants of concern shall be sulfur oxides;
 - 202.2** PM₁₀, the pollutants of concern shall be PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5};
 - 202.3** PM_{2.5}, the pollutants of concern shall be PM_{2.5}, ammonia, volatile organic compounds (VOC), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and SO₂;
 - 202.4** Ozone, the pollutants of concern shall be NO_x, VOC, and carbon monoxide (CO);
 - 202.5** Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), the pollutants of concern shall be NO_x; and
 - 202.6** CO, the pollutant of concern shall be CO.

SECTION 300 – STANDARDS

301 EPISODE LEVEL CRITERIA: The Control Officer’s designated representative shall acquire air quality forecasts and meteorological data in accordance with Section 403 of this rule. The Control Officer shall declare air pollution alerts, warnings, and emergencies in accordance with the following criteria:

301.1 Air Pollution Alert: An air pollution alert shall be declared when any of the alert level concentrations listed in Table 600-1 are exceeded at any monitoring site and when meteorological conditions indicate that there will be a continuance or recurrence of concentrations for the same pollutant exceeding the alert level during the subsequent 24-hour period.

301.2 Air Pollution Warning: An air pollution warning shall be declared when any of the warning level concentrations listed in Table 600-1 are exceeded at any monitoring site and when meteorological conditions indicate that there will be a continuance or recurrence of concentrations of the same pollutant exceeding the warning level during the subsequent 24-hour period.

301.3 Air Pollution Emergency: An air pollution emergency shall be declared:

- a. When any of the emergency level concentrations listed in Table 600-1 are exceeded at any monitoring site and when meteorological conditions indicate that there will be a continuance or recurrence of concentrations of the same pollutant exceeding the emergency level during the subsequent 24-hour period; or
- b. If air pollution concentrations have not decreased below the warning level concentrations listed in Table 600-1 within 48-hours after the declaration of an air pollution warning.

**TABLE 600-1
EPISODE LEVEL CRITERIA AND SIGNIFICANT HARM LEVELS**

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Alert	Warning	Emergency	Significant Harm Level
Sulfur Dioxide (ug/m ³)	24-hr	800	1,600	2,100	2,620
Small Particulates (PM ₁₀) (ug/m ³)	24-hr	350	420	500	600
Fine Particulates (PM _{2.5}) (ug/m ³)	24-hr	140.5	210.5	280.5	350.5
Ozone (ug/m ³)	1-hr	400 (0.2 ppm)	800 (0.4 ppm)	1,000 (0.5 ppm)	1,200 (0.6 ppm)
Nitrogen Dioxide (ug/m ³)	1-hr	1,130	2,260	3,000	3,750
	24-hr	282	565	750	938
Carbon Monoxide (mg/m ³)	8-hr	17 (15 ppm)	34 (30 ppm)	46 (40 ppm)	57.5 (50 ppm)
	4-hr				86.3 (75 ppm)
	1-hr				144 (125 ppm)

302 CONTROL ACTIONS – EMERGENCY EPISODE PLAN:

302.1 Air Pollution Alert: When an air pollution alert has been declared, the following control actions, as applicable to the source(s) emitting the pollutant(s) of concern, shall be implemented as directed by the Control Officer:

- a. All permits to burn shall be suspended until further notice. The forest service shall be notified to postpone slash burning in affected areas.
- b. Incineration shall be limited to the hours of 12 noon to 4:00 p.m.
- c. Sources operating pursuant to an air pollution control permit shall be notified to minimize emissions of the pollutant of concern by curtailing or deferring operations not on a required schedule and by maximizing the collection efficiency of control equipment. Emissions from batch operations shall be limited to the hours of 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. This control action shall not be applicable to any operations that are necessary to protect public health, public safety, or public welfare.
- d. The public shall be requested to voluntarily restrict motor vehicle use as much as possible.

302.2 Air Pollution Warning: When an air pollution warning has been declared, the following control actions, as applicable to the source(s) emitting the pollutant(s) of concern, shall be implemented as directed by the Control Officer:

- a. Burning of vegetation, trade wastes, and debris shall not be permitted by any person.
- b. Use of incinerators shall be prohibited.
- c. Sources operating pursuant to an air pollution control permit shall be notified to initiate a 40 percent or greater reduction in actual emissions by curtailment or cessation of operations. All processing industries shall be requested to effect a maximum reduction in heat load demands. This control action shall not be applicable to any operations that are necessary to protect public health, public safety, or public welfare.
- d. Highway construction and paving activities shall be halted, unless it is technologically infeasible to do so. All soil removal or grading operations at other construction sites shall be postponed.
- e. Schools, businesses, industrial facilities, and government agencies shall be asked to limit activities as much as possible to reduce motor vehicle use.
- f. As demand for electricity decreases, as a result of the cutbacks implemented in accordance with subsections 302.2(a) through (e) of this rule, the MCAQD shall contact the operators of power plants subject to Rule 322 to request emission reductions to minimize air pollution.

302.3 Air Pollution Emergency: When an air pollution emergency has been declared, the following control actions shall be implemented:

- a. Sources operating pursuant to an air pollution control permit shall cease operations as directed by the Governor, except those vital for public safety and welfare and enforcement of the emergency episode control actions.
- b. As directed by the Governor, all commercial, governmental, and institutional establishments, except those vital for public safety and welfare and enforcement of the emergency episode control actions, shall be closed.
- c. All construction shall be halted as directed by the Governor except that which must proceed to avoid emergent physical harm.
- d. As directed by the Governor, use of motor vehicles shall be prohibited except in emergencies with approval of the local police.

SECTION 400 - ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- 401 EPISODE TERMINATION:** Once declared, any status reached by application of these criteria shall remain in effect until the criteria for that level are no longer met. At such time, the next lower status will be assumed.
- 402 COORDINATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY:** When the conditions justifying the proclamation of an air pollution alert, warning, or emergency are determined to exist in any place in Maricopa County, the Control Officer shall be guided by the criteria established by state regulation R18-2-220 (Air Pollution Emergency Episodes), and shall cooperate directly with the State Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality in all pertinent areas of control, communication, and surveillance.
- 403 ACQUISITION OF FORECASTS:** The Control Officer's designated representative shall review air quality forecasts from ADEQ, weather forecasts and alerts from the National Weather Service (including atmospheric stagnation advisories, heat advisories, wind advisories, and high wind watches and warnings), and other reliable sources of meteorological data to determine if it is likely that the episode level criteria in Table 600-1 will be exceeded. The Control Officer will also use air quality forecasts, weather alerts, other reliable sources of meteorological data, and monitoring data to determine if a continuance or recurrence of alert level, warning level, or emergency level pollutant concentrations is likely.
- 404 COMMUNICATION OF EMERGENCY EPISODES:** When an air pollution alert, warning, or emergency is declared, the Control Officer's designated representative will prepare a news release that describes the affected area, air pollutant concentrations, and meteorological conditions. The news release will also include control actions that will be implemented to reduce the concentration of pollutants in the ambient air and steps that individuals can take to reduce their exposure to pollutants in the ambient air. The news release will be distributed and/or announced using one or more of the following methods:
- 404.1** Press releases to electronic and print media;
 - 404.2** Email and/or text messages;
 - 404.3** Social media;
 - 404.4** The Maricopa County Air Quality Department website; and

404.5 The Clean Air Make More website and mobile application.

SECTION 500 – MONITORING AND RECORDS

- 501 RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING:** Any owner or operator subject to this rule shall comply with the requirements set forth in this section. Any records and data required by this section shall be kept on site at all times in a consistent and complete manner and be made available without delay to the Control Officer or designee upon request.
- 502 RECORDS RETENTION:** Copies of reports, logs, and supporting documentation required by the Control Officer shall be retained for at least 5 years. Records and information required by this rule shall also be retained for at least 5 years.
- 503 RECORDS OF CONTROL ACTION:** An owner or operator shall maintain a log of the control actions taken during an Air Pollution Alert, Air Pollution Warning and Air Pollution Emergency.