

<http://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Air/airtoolsweb/Advisories/>, which includes the actual advisory, the start and end dates, the area, and status (expired, active) of the advisory. DEC will also post advisories on its relevant social media accounts, like Burn Wise Alaska Facebook page and Twitter.

In addition to providing notification when the opacity limits and/or curtailment requirements are in effect, the department plans to provide on-going public information on the opacity limits and ways that residents can comply. Difficulty meeting opacity limits could be due to wet wood. Under state regulation, residents are required to use dry wood during winter months.

Residents will be directed to department-registered wood sellers that either disclose the moisture content of purchased wood or agree to provide dry wood. Brochures on proper maintenance and operation of a solid fuel-fired device are also available. To the extent that DEC resources allow, staff can assist residents who request help in determining in advance of episode conditions whether their typical burning operations meet the opacity limits outlined in this plan.

If a resident is found to be out of compliance with the opacity limits or curtailment requirements identified for a specific episode, DEC is responsible for taking actions to enforce the state requirements. The department's compliance activities are conducted using the tools and authorities provided under the state statutes. The Division of Air Quality does not have statutory authority to issue administrative penalties for violations of Alaska environmental law. This means that DEC staff cannot simply write "tickets" to individuals that are found to be violating the opacity limits. All compliance and enforcement activities are case specific, however, DEC generally initiates compliance activities in response to observations made during burn curtailment events or in response to complaints received that indicate the potential for violations of a state regulation. DEC staff investigate complaints to verify or corroborate a problem or violation of a state requirement. In most cases, the department finds that compliance can be achieved through assistance to businesses and individuals in understanding the regulatory requirements and how they can comply. In the case of problem burners failing to meet these opacity levels during air quality episodes, it is important to bring a unit into compliance quickly to reduce smoke and assist in bringing levels of PM_{2.5} into compliance in the local area. In the event that compliance assistance is not successful in resolving a recurring smoke concern at a specific residence or business, the department staff may use additional administrative enforcement tools, such as nuisance abatement orders or Notices of Violation, to address the concern.