

**050.001 EMERGENCY EPISODE PLAN** (Adopted 03/23/2006; Revised 07/22/2021)

**SECTION A – GENERAL:**

1. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this rule is to:
  - a. Advise the residents of Washoe County of air pollution levels which may be harmful to their health; and
  - b. Initiate corrective control measures to prevent elevated concentrations of criteria air pollutants to levels which would cause harm to the population within Washoe County.
2. **APPLICABILITY:** The provisions of this rule shall apply to identified geographies within Washoe County.

**SECTION B – DEFINITIONS:** For the purpose of this rule, the following definitions shall apply.

See Definitions 010.001-010.265 of these Regulations.

**SECTION C – STANDARDS:** The following standards shall apply:

1. An emergency episode stage will be declared after prompt acquisition of forecasts of atmospheric stagnation conditions and updates of such forecasts by the National Weather Service and ambient air monitoring networks:
  - a. whenever the concentrations of a criteria air pollutant at a state or local air monitoring station (SLAMS) or a special purpose monitor (SPM) operated in accordance with 40 CFR 58 Appendix D or 40 CFR 58.20, respectively and under the jurisdiction of the Washoe County Health District:
    - (1) reach or are predicted to reach the levels specified in **Table 1** of this section; or
    - (2) are expected to persist at or above the levels specified in **Table 1** of this section;

**TABLE 1  
EMERGENCY EPISODE  
STAGE LEVELS**

Air Pollutant	Averaging Time	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Particulates (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	24 Hour	35.4 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	55.4 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	150.4 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	250.4 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Particulates (PM <sub>10</sub> )	24 Hour	154 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	254 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	354 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	424 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )	8 Hour	0.070 ppm	0.085 ppm	0.105 ppm	0.2 ppm
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	8 Hour	9.4 ppm	12.4 ppm	15.4 ppm	30.4 ppm
Sulfur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> )	1 Hour	75 ppb	185 ppb	304 ppb	n/a
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> )	1 Hour	100 ppb	360 ppb	649 ppb	1249 ppb

2. The Control Officer shall issue a public health notification and take the following actions based upon declaration of the following stages:
  - a. Stage 1:
    - (1) Whenever the concentrations of PM2.5, PM10, or carbon monoxide reach, or are predicted to reach a Stage 1 level and adverse meteorological conditions are expected to persist:
      - i. Operation of any wood-burning device shall be curtailed unless it can be demonstrated, in accordance with procedures established by the Control Officer, that such fuels supply the only heat available within the dwelling unit.
      - ii. Open Burning and Prescribed Burning as defined in Sections 040.035 and 040.037, respectively, of these Regulations shall be curtailed.
  - b. Stage 2: Control measures specified in **Section C.2.a.** of this rule may be implemented under a Stage 2 episode. The Control Officer may also:
    - (1) Curtail all commercial solid fuel burning.
    - (2) Curtail all incinerator and crematorium operations.
  - c. Stage 3: Control measures specified in **Sections C.2.a.** and **C.2.b.** of this rule may be implemented under a Stage 3 episode. The Control Officer may also:
    - (1) Issue a shelter-in-place or evacuation order.
    - (2) Curtail operations of specific public, commercial, and industrial establishments which are not deemed necessary by the Control Officer for public health and safety and are contributing to the declared emergency episode.
  - d. Stage 4: Control measures specified in **Sections C.2.a., C.2.b.,** and **C.2.c.** of this rule may be implemented under a Stage 4 episode. The Control Officer may also:
    - (1) Curtail all public, commercial, and industrial establishments which are not deemed necessary by the Control Officer for public health and safety and are contributing to the declared emergency episode.
3. The Control Officer shall declare an episode stage terminated when the criteria air pollutant concentration(s) fall or are expected to fall below the emergency episode stage levels indicated in **Section C.1** of this rule.

#### **SECTION D – ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Notification of an episode stage. When an emergency episode stage is declared, the Control Officer shall notify:
  - a. The news media and shall request that they publish or broadcast all appropriate public health notifications;
  - b. The Washoe County Manager and the managers of the cities of Reno and Sparks;

- c. The managers and operators of public, commercial, and industrial establishments which are not deemed necessary by the Control Officer for public health and safety that may be subject to curtailment of operations; and
  - d. Other agencies which, in the opinion of the Control Officer, should be notified.
2. Notification Information. Notification of an emergency episode stage shall include information as to which stage has been forecasted or reached, the expected duration of the episode, the geographic boundaries of the affected area, the specific criteria air pollutant(s) for which the stage has been declared, a statement of the public health significance of the episode stage, and the appropriate voluntary or mandatory control measures to be taken, as described in **Section C.2.** of this rule.
  3. Episode Termination. Upon declaration of termination of an episode stage, the Control Officer shall notify those persons and offices specified in **Section D.1.** of this rule. The notice shall also advise which public, commercial, and industrial establishments and curtailed activities may resume, and which operations and/or activities must remain curtailed, as specified in **Section C.2.** of this rule.

#### **SECTION E – COMPLIANCE AND RECORDS:**

1. Upon declaration of any emergency episode stages listed in **Section C.2.** of this rule in which the Control Officer requires the curtailment of activities or of public, commercial, or industrial establishments, an inspection of curtailed sources until Episode Termination detailed in **Section D.3.** of this rule shall be conducted.
2. All records, public health notifications, and supporting documentation deemed necessary in the determination, justification, declaration, and termination of all emergency episodes shall be retained by the Control Officer.