



City of Medford

Working for You

Continuous Improvement ~ Customer Service

Medford's Woodstove Ordinance

In winter months, Medford and surrounding areas are frequently impacted by inversions that create stagnant weather conditions and the build up of pollutants in our air. When this occurs, tiny particles and toxins in the air get trapped in valley and "bowls" by a layer of warmer air above, preventing pollution from escaping. Smoke from fireplaces and woodstoves produce the greatest amount of these toxins. Unfortunately, when air pollution reaches unsafe levels, it becomes dangerous for children, the elderly and people suffering from respiratory and other chronic illnesses.

Medford's woodstove ordinance was created to help prevent unsafe air pollution levels and protect our citizens. The ordinance states that no visible smoke may be emitted from a chimney on a Yellow or Red day in a certified woodstove. Uncertified woodstoves may only burn on Green days and must maintain a limit of 50% opacity. Opacity of 50% means the visibility of an object seen through smoke is reduced by half. Low opacity is best achieved by burning dry wood in a hot fire with lots of oxygen.

Medford's Code Enforcement Officials enforce the City Code against woodstove infractions. If you would like to report violations or have questions about this ordinance, please contact Code Enforcement directly at (541) 774-2016 or CodeEnforcement@cityofmedford.org.

For questions on woodstove use (when to burn, what to burn, how to burn), please call Jackson County Environmental Public Health at (541) 774-8206 or Medford DEQ at (541) 776-6089.

To determine whether it is a Green, Yellow or Red day, call (541) 776-9000 or check online at: <https://jacksoncountyor.org/hhs/Environmental-Public-Health/Wood-Stove-and-Open-Burning>

Wood Burning Restrictions

Advisory	Woodstoves	Non-certified Woodstoves
RED	No Visible Smoke	No Burning
YELLOW	No Visible Smoke	No Burning
GREEN	50% Opacity	50% Opacity

A **GREEN** day means that the air in the Rogue Valley is predicted to be good.

A **YELLOW** day means a twenty-four hour period, beginning at 7:00 AM, when the PM2.5 levels are forecasted by the DEQ or the Jackson County Department of Health and Human Services to be approaching unhealthy levels.

A **RED** day means a twenty-four hour period, beginning at 7:00 AM, when PM2.5 levels are forecasted by the DEQ or the Jackson County Department of Health and Human Services to reach unhealthy levels.

Streetlight Outages

It's that time of year when it's getting darker earlier, and earlier, and earlier... Don't let it get too dark! We do our best to keep the lights on, but sometimes we need your help to let us know that streetlights are out. If you have streetlights out in your neighborhood, please report them so we can get them fixed. There are two ways to report streetlight outages in Medford, depending on who maintains them. Streetlights are maintained by either the City of Medford or Pacific Power.

Q: How does one tell who maintains a particular streetlight?

A: Most of the time City poles are metal and Pacific Power poles are wood. There are exceptions, but that is a good rule of thumb. You can also tell by the pole tag.

City Maintained	Pacific Power Maintained
  <p>City maintained pole tags will say either "City of Medford" or "COM" and have a one to four digit number.</p>	 <p>Pacific Power maintained pole tags will say either Pacific Power or "PPL" followed by a much longer number, often with an "M" before the number.</p>

Q: What information is needed when reporting the outage?

A: Providing the pole number is best. A good, descriptive location will also work.

Q: How do I report?

A: You can call or report online:

City of Medford: (541) 774-2600 or online at www.ci.medford.or.us, select City Departments, Public Works, then Maintenance Request

Pacific Power: (888) 221-7070 or visit their website at www.pacificpower.net, select Safety & Outages, then Streetlights