

RULE 701. AIR POLLUTION EPISODE PLAN

Adopted: 03/03/14

A. Description

1. The Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD) Air Pollution Episode Plan is a system designed to alert the public of air contaminants that may be harmful to health and to protect that portion of the population at risk. It establishes advisory procedures when specified levels are reached.

B. Purpose

1. Define air pollution episode criteria.
2. Provide for episode notification to the public.
3. Recommend precautionary actions to be taken during episodes.
4. Prevent or reduce the severity of episodes.

C. GBUAPCD Requirements

1. Measurements

- a. The APCO shall maintain strategic air monitoring stations throughout the District so that air quality can be monitored on a continuous basis and air pollution episodes can be measured and predicted.
- b. The APCO shall utilize other sources of information, including, but not limited to, the National Weather Service, Tribal Environmental Exchange Network and Incident Information System for episode notification and forecasting.

2. Episode Notifications

- a. The APCO shall notify the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), California Air Resources Board (CARB), news media, schools, medical facilities, child day care facilities and the general public when an episode is declared.
- b. The APCO shall maintain on-line access to district wide air monitoring network measurements at <http://gbuapcd.org/data>.
- c. The APCO shall provide on-line subscription options for episode notifications at <http://gbuapcd.org/healthadvisory>.
- d. The APCO shall monitor air quality 24 (twenty four) hours a day, 7 (seven) days a week and will disseminate episode information to the parties identified in paragraph C.2.a and episode notification subscribers by the following methods within an hour of the first hourly reading in a day that exceeds the episode criteria specified in paragraph C.4:
 - i. Phone text messaging
 - ii. E-mail to the healthadvisory@gbuapcd.org listserv
 - iii. Website <http://gbuapcd.org/healthadvisory>.

3. Notification Content
 - a. Stage level.
 - b. Impacted geographic area(s) and communities.
 - c. Pollutant for which the episode is declared, specified dust or wildfire smoke air contaminant and PM concentration.
 - d. Associated health message.

4. Episode Criteria (Attachment 1)
 - a. A Stage 1 air pollution health advisory will be issued when hourly PM10 particulate pollution levels exceed 400 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) for dust and 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for wildfire smoke or when hourly PM2.5 particulate pollution levels exceed 150 microgram per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).
 - b. A Stage 2 air pollution health advisory will be issued when hourly particulate pollution levels exceed 800 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for dust and 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for wildfire smoke or when hourly PM2.5 particulate pollution levels exceed 300 microgram per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).

5. Actions
 - a. Stage 1
A Stage 1 health advisory will recommend:
 - i. Minimize outdoor activity.
 - ii. Children, the elderly, and people with heart or lung problems refrain from strenuous outdoor activities in the impacted area.
 - iii. Outdoor physical education classes, sports practices, and athletic competitions should be rescheduled or cancelled if practicable.
 - b. Stage 2
A Stage 2 health advisory will recommend:
 - i. Eliminate outdoor activities in impacted area.
 - ii. Remain indoors with doors and windows closed until the episode is terminated.
 - iii. Avoid all activities that produce aerosols, dust, fumes and other irritants.

6. Episode Termination
 - a. An episode shall terminate when the concentration of the pollutant which causes the declaration of such episode has been verified to have fallen below the criteria level for the declaration of the episode and an analysis of meteorological and air quality data indicates that the pollutant concentration is expected to continue to decrease.

7. Special Actions for Prescribed Burning

Where prescribed burning is defined in:

Rule 408 – Open Burning in Agricultural Operations or Disease or Prevention

Rule 409 – Range Improvement Burning

Rule 410 – Forest Management Burning

Rule 411 – Wildland Vegetation Management Burning in Wildland and Wildland/Urban Interface Areas

Rule 412 – Open Burning of Non-Industrial Wood Waste at City of County Disposal Sites

- a. Upon the declaration of any predicted Stage 1 or Stage 2 episode, all coinciding scheduled prescribed burning, shall be prohibited.
 - b. Upon the declaration of any Stage 1 or Stage 2 episode, all prescribed burning, if already ignited, shall be terminated.
8. Interdistrict Coordination
- a. Upon request of an air pollution control officer in an adjoining air basin for action to abate Stage 1 or Stage 2 episodes occurring within that district, the APCO shall make a determination, and if the need for action is confirmed, direct the implementation of the actions required in this Rule for any significant source area identified within the District which contributes to the ongoing episode in the adjoining district.
9. Abatement Actions
- a. The APCO shall investigate the nature of the problem and determine if abatement actions could be taken to reduce the pollution levels.
 - b. The notification system will allow citizens to take actions to limit exposure.

D. Definitions

For the purpose of this rule, the following definitions apply:

1. “Air Contaminant or Air Pollutant” - any discharge, release, or other propagation into the atmosphere and includes, but is not limited to, dust, smoke, particulate matter or any combination thereof.
2. “Air Pollution Control Officer” (APCO) - the person appointed to the position of Air Pollution Control Officer of GBUAPCD pursuant to the provisions of California Health & Safety Code §40750, and his or her designee.
3. “Child Day Care Facility”- a State licensed child day care, pre-school, or after-school program.
4. “Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District” (GBUAPCD)- California regional government agency that works to protect the people and the environment of Alpine, Mono and Inyo Counties from the harmful effects of air pollution.
5. “Episodes” – exceedances of hourly PM levels set by the District for issuing air quality advisories to protect public health prior to 24-hour exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard and Level of Significant Harm. The applicable Episode criteria, for this rule, are presented in Attachment 1.
6. “Impacted Area and Communities”- geographic location or place of human occupation or permanent dwelling within or downwind of known or forecasted pollution impact boundaries.

7. "Medical Facility"- any location at which medicine is practiced regularly ranging from small clinics and doctor's offices to urgent care centers and hospitals.
8. "News Media" - the written press, television, radio, and other mass media of communication such as on-line computer information services.
9. "PM10 and PM2.5"- Particulate matter of less than 10 and 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter, respectively, which are regulated under federal and state law to protect public health. PM10 and PM2.5 are easily inhaled into the deepest parts of the lung and can cause adverse health consequences, particularly for children, the elderly, and people with respiratory conditions.
10. "Prescribed Burning"- the intentional use of fire to reduce wildfire hazards, clear downed trees, control plant diseases, improve rangeland and wildlife habitats, and restore natural ecosystems.
11. "School"- means public and private educational institutions for children ranging from grades Kindergarten through high school.
12. "Strenuous Outdoor Activity"- Vigorous outdoor exercise lasting short durations at high intensity or long durations at moderate intensity.

ATTACHMENT 1

EPISODE CRITERIA				
For the purpose of Rule 701, the following episode criteria shall apply:				
Air Pollutant	Averaging Time	Stage 1 Health Advisory	Stage 2 Health Advisory	Health
PM10 - Dust	1 Hour	400 µg/m ³	800 µg/m ³	
PM2.5 - Dust	1 Hour	150 µg/m ³	300 µg/m ³	
PM10 - Wildfire Smoke	1 Hour	100 µg/m ³	200 µg/m ³	