

Pocatello Regional Office

Air Quality Awareness Week

May 2–6, 2016



Both the Portneuf Valley PM₁₀ nonattainment area in Pocatello, Chubbuck, and surrounding areas and Cache Valley PM_{2.5} nonattainment area in Cache County, Utah (northern Utah) and Franklin County, Idaho (southeastern Idaho) experience stagnant weather conditions in the late fall and winter. These conditions, combined with various sources, contribute to a buildup of PM₁₀ in Pocatello and PM_{2.5} in Cache Valley, which sometimes exceeds the national and state standards. These two geographically distinct areas experience problems from different source impacts—industrial sources, road dust emissions, and residential wood smoke—which cause the exceedances.

State implementation plans for both areas have been submitted to EPA, which outline control measures on point and area sources to attain and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter.

In the Portneuf Valley, PM₁₀ emissions are primarily road dust from on- and off-road vehicles and industrial emissions. The key control strategies include residential wood combustion ordinances, an open burning program, reasonably available control methods on agricultural sources, the Air Quality Index program, and road sanding agreements.

On the Idaho side of the Cache Valley, major PM_{2.5} sources are mobile dust, vehicles, and woodstove emissions. The key control strategies include reducing the amount of wintertime road sanding material, implementing residential woodstove combustion control ordinances, controlling burning during air quality alerts, implementing the Air Quality Index program, and providing incentives to replace outdated woodstoves with energy and emission efficient EPA-certified woodstoves.

For more information, visit

deq.idaho.gov/regional-offices-issues/pocatello/air-quality-plans-reports/
deq.idaho.gov/air-quality/burning/wood-stoves/

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