

Why Public Health Officials could the clearest understanding of Air Pollution

A daughter visiting her parents for 5 days monitored the indoor level of PM 2 point 5

The level when burning wood indoors was twenty four micrograms per cubic meter.

The level when not wood burning was three micrograms per cubic meter.

The parents chose to burn 3 to 6 hours per day for aesthetic reasons.

After 5 days of living in the wood smoke filled house as a guest

The daughter asked her parents to only burn wood on special occasions

when they could all gather around the wood stove and breathe in and smell the wood smoke together somewhat like sharing a large cigarette as a family as a special treat.

But near neighbors bear the brunt of wood smoke from indoor Residential wood burning.

Even if the PM 2 point 5 level is 24 micrograms per cubic meter inside the house

most wood stoves have exhaust pipes that direct as much of the wood smoke

through the exhaust pipes outdoors as possible. Wood smoke enter the yards

of nearby wood burning enters the yards of near neighbors and sickens the near neighbors.

PM 2 point 5 from Wood burning seeps into the homes of near neighbors and

sickens the near neighbors. Even if near neighbors stay inside to avoid the wood smoke

in their yards, if near neighbors want to breathe freely In their own homes they have to

use multiple air purifiers constantly in the presence of nearby indoor residential

wood burning. Near neighbors of indoor residential wood burners who would like to

collect data showing levels of PM 2 point 5 above 5 micrograms per cubic meter annually

which is the safe limit designated by the World Health Organization W H O. For near

neighbors a PurpleAir PM 2 point five monitor hanging from the eaves of their house works well.

PM 2 point 5 data is collected every 10 minutes and is posted for the public to view and download

on PurpleAir maps on the internet. The daughter did not take into consideration that

wood smoke is not physically addictive like the nicotine in tobacco products like cigarettes is addictive.

There are not physical withdrawal symptoms when stopping indoor residential wood burning.

The majority of people in developed countries have had the wonderful advantage of the relatively clean energy of natural gas furnaces for home heating at least in the American Midwest.

In the United Kingdom the average person has even more advantages in a push toward

incentives for Heat Pumps. In the United Kingdom there is a push to extend electrification

to all rural areas. So much of the UK is Electrified it is standard for people without electricity

to be without electricity only a s a choice. Any savings that a rural family thinks they are achieving

must be weighed against the cost of healthcare and funerals for early deaths from heart attacks,

heart disease, lung disease and many types of preventable if wood burning is not done.

The evidence of the harm from wildfire smoke should serve as a reminder that wood smoke

is not a pleasant or harmless experience. The CO2 and PM 2 point 5 from wood burning

also hastens climate change. The decision of a family. To inhale wood smoke together

as if sharing a cigarette together on special occasions is also an experience shared

with near neighbors and incrementally and negatively with the world.

In 2026 Public Health Officials could have the clearest understanding of Air Pollution

The willingness of Public Health Officials to stop wood burning should already be there.

We need laws and local ordinances to show the way for Public Health Officials to stop

Indoor residential wood burning just as there are laws against smoking cigarettes in

a shared workplace today. These laws and their enforcement will undoubtedly save lives.