



**Request for City Council Committee Action
Health Department**

Date: May 1, 2013

To: **PUBLIC SAFETY, CIVIL RIGHTS & HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Referral to:

Subject: **Recreational Fires and Air Quality Alert Days**

Recommendation:

Amend Title 9, Chapter 178 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Fire and Police Protection: Recreational Fires prohibiting recreational fires during an air pollution public health advisory for particulate matter.

Previous Directives:

On October 12, 2011 Regulatory Services and Fire Department staff presented information about recreational fires in Minneapolis. The matter was referred to the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee and the Public Health Advisory Committee to review the recreational fire ordinance and consider possible improvements both from a health and safety perspective.

On November 28, 2012 the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee and the Public Health Advisory Committee presented their joint review and recommendations.

Prepared or Submitted by: Becky McIntosh, Director of Planning & Administration
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Approved by:

Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health

Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval ____ Not Applicable ____

Policy Review Group (PRG) Approval ____ Date of Approval ____ Not Applicable X

Presenters in Committee: Daniel Huff, Manager of Environmental Health
Perry Ebner, Fire Marshall

Community Impact (use any categories that apply)

City Goals:

Eco-Focused

Livable Communities and Healthy Lives

Background/Supporting Information Attached

The Citizens Environmental Advisory Commission and the Public Health Advisory Committee at their joint presentation on November 28, 2012 recommended that recreational fires be prohibited when the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency issues an air pollution public health advisory for PM 2.5 (particles smaller than 2.5 microns).

PM 2.5 is a pollutant of concern for the Twin Cities Metro Area. While levels have fallen over recent years, this pollutant continues to be at or near federal air pollution guidelines and health benchmarks. If the region were to exceed Clean Air Act standards for PM 2.5, additional regulatory requirements would most likely be imposed on businesses and consumers. High PM 2.5 levels have a negative impact upon human health and are specifically implicated in cardiovascular and respiratory issues such as stroke, heart attack and asthma. When air pollution levels are likely to cause negative health impacts, The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency issues an air pollution public health advisory.

The burning of fossil fuels for energy production, on-road vehicles and off-road vehicles is the primary source of particulate matter in our air. While there are many sources of particulate matter, recreational fires are one source that can be limited during advisories without significant economic or social ramifications.

Enforcement:

The Fire Department is responsible for enforcement of the City's Recreational Fire Ordinance. The department does not anticipate complications or significant staffing resource issues created by this amendment