



# Things Your Business Should Know About Reducing Air Pollution

**A Guide To Air Pollution Control  
In Spokane County**

## What's Inside

- All about SCAPCA
- Kinds of businesses regulated by SCAPCA
- Staying in compliance with air quality regulations



*Use this booklet to help assure that  
your business is meeting air quality laws,  
and to train your employees.*



**Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority**

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The quality of the air we breathe directly affects our health and well-being. Health impacts for individuals exposed to air pollution range from minimal effects to short-term reduction in lung function to an increase in respiratory illness and premature death. For this reason, preserving air quality has been a strong national priority since 1970, when Congress passed the Clean Air Act. Under this authority, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established health-based, air quality standards — known as National Ambient Air Quality Standards — for six criteria pollutants; carbon monoxide, fine particulates, ozone, sulfur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and lead. Locally, the Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority (SCAPCA) implements federal, state and local air quality regulations and programs which are designed to attain and maintain clean air standards.



## What Is the Status of Air Quality in Spokane County?

Tremendous improvements have been made in cleaning up the air over the last three decades. According to air monitoring data in 1975, there were over 300 "unhealthy" days in Spokane and regular violations of health standards for both particulate matter (dust and smoke) and carbon monoxide. Thirty years later, in August 2005, Spokane was officially declared by EPA in "attainment" of all federal air quality standards.

### Future Challenges:

**Air Toxics** — Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems. There are 188 air toxics listed in the Federal Clean Air Act, plus diesel particles. Diesel particles, formaldehyde, benzene and acrolein are the air pollutants that create the greatest air toxics-associated health risks in Washington state.

Recently, the first ever air toxics monitoring study was conducted in Spokane. Preliminary results suggest that Spokane's urban air has concentrations of certain chemicals that may pose a higher public health risk than we would like to see.

**Particulate Matter (PM)** — Newly revised standards for PM will help to address the health concerns of fine particles, which penetrate into the sensitive regions of the respiratory tract. Children, the elderly, and individuals with cardiovascular disease or lung disease such as emphysema and asthma are especially vulnerable.

**Ozone** — is becoming more prevalent in the Spokane area. Ground level ozone (also known as photochemical smog) forms when other pollutants — nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds — react in the presence of sunlight. Sources for these pollutants in the Spokane area include motor vehicles, commercial and industrial facilities, chemical solvents and combustion products from various fuels, and consumer products.



### Do Businesses Contribute to Air Pollution?

Individuals as well as businesses contribute to air pollution. This is why reducing air pollution is everybody's business. Just as individuals are required to follow certain activities, such as curtailing wood burning and having their car emissions tested, businesses are also required to reduce emissions released into the air.

Businesses create or contribute a variety of different pollutants, including some or all of the six criteria pollutants listed previously, depending on their manufacturing process and products used in their process. This is why facilities are subject to air pollution control requirements, registration, permitting and annual inspections.

In addition to the six criteria pollutants, some businesses release toxic compounds. The EPA and the Washington State Department of Ecology developed rules addressing toxic air pollutants, which SCAPCA implements locally. EPA's rules address over 175 pollutants and Ecology's rules address about 600 toxic pollutants.

### What Is SCAPCA?

The Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority (SCAPCA) is an agency of local government formed under the 1967 State Clean Air Act. SCAPCA is responsible for administering federal, state and local laws and regulations regarding outdoor air pollution in Spokane County. SCAPCA's jurisdiction is countywide, including the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Spokane County.

To achieve the goals of the Clean Air Act, SCAPCA implements programs aimed at reducing air pollution from all significant sources. A combination of education and regulatory efforts is directed toward commercial and industrial emission sources, residential wood combustion, outdoor burning, motor vehicles, asbestos, and dust sources.

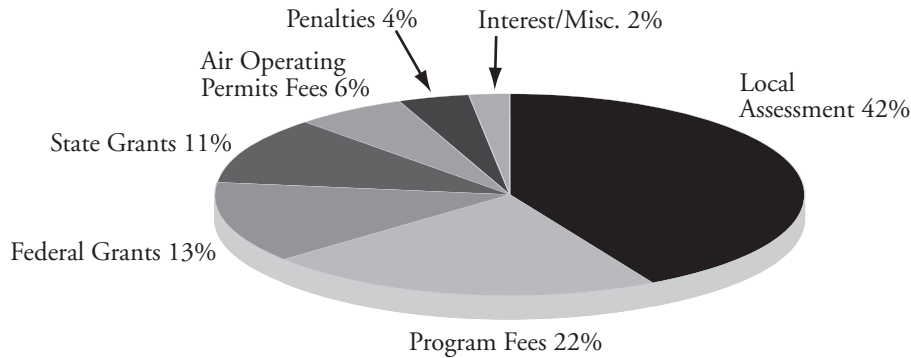
### What Is the Governing Body of SCAPCA?

The agency is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, which includes a Spokane County Commissioner, a City of Spokane Valley representative, a City of Spokane representative, a Small Cities and Towns representative and a Member-at-Large. The Board of Directors conducts regular monthly meetings, and the public and regulated business representatives are encouraged to attend. Meeting agendas and minutes are available online at [www.scapca.org](http://www.scapca.org).

SCAPCA also has an Advisory Council, appointed by the Board of Directors, to advise them and the staff on air pollution policies, regulations, and programs. The Advisory Council meets monthly and its members represent the following areas: meteorology, agriculture, chemistry, public health, environmental community, air pollution control, industry, business community and a citizen representative.

## How Is SCAPCA Funded?

### Funding Revenues for Fiscal Year 2006



SCAPCA finances its programs through state and federal grants, local assessments, and program fees.

## How Is SCAPCA Organized and What are the Staff Responsibilities?

SCAPCA employs a professional staff to provide technical, engineering, compliance, education & communication, administrative, and clerical support.

- The Technical Services Staff maintains the air monitoring network, conducts data analysis and quality assurance, air quality forecasting and provides computer service assistance to agency staff.
- The Engineering Staff reviews and approves facility permit applications, provides information on regulations, and reviews environmental documents.
- The Compliance Staff conducts inspections, responds to citizen complaints, does routine surveillance, enforces air pollution regulations, and participates in public education programs.
- The Administrative Staff participates in program planning and evaluation, inter-agency coordination, finance and human resources.
- The Clerical Staff provides a variety of specialized secretarial and clerical assistance, and support services.
- The Education & Communication Staff develops educational programs and materials for citizens and businesses, conducts school and community presentations, works with the news media, and coordinates public/private partnerships and special events.

### What Kinds of Businesses are Regulated by SCAPCA?

SCAPCA regulates air emissions from a broad range of approximately 650 commercial operations and industrial facilities. Below is an example of the types of businesses registered with SCAPCA:

Surface Coating	Grain Handling/Seed
Gasoline Dispensing	Abrasive Blasting
Boilers, Incinerators, Afterburners	Fiberglass/Plastic
Dry Cleaners	Metal Plating
Woodworking	Foundry
Asphalt, Concrete, Aggregate	Miscellaneous

### What Regulations Should I be Aware Of?

The following sections describe some of the regulations that are important for all businesses to understand. Additional information on these and other regulatory programs is available by contacting SCAPCA, (509) 477-4727, or visiting our website at [www.scapca.org](http://www.scapca.org), and click on "business information."

#### SCAPCA's Registration Process

SCAPCA Regulation I, Article IV lists categories of sources that have been identified as having potentially significant air emissions and therefore may be required to register with SCAPCA and pay an annual registration fee.

*Existing facilities* need to fill out registration forms, itemizing the processes within the facility and the vents/exhaust points to the outdoor air. Before processes or emission points are added or modified, the facility should contact SCAPCA. A Notice of Construction and Application for Approval may be required.

*New facilities* must contact SCAPCA and follow the Notice of Construction and Application for Approval process, which also serves as the registration form for the facility. In addition, they may need to obtain approval from other departments and agencies such as the County Planning and Zoning Department, the Building Department, Spokane Regional Health District, and other agencies. ***SCAPCA will gladly assist facilities with the registration and the Notice of Construction process.***

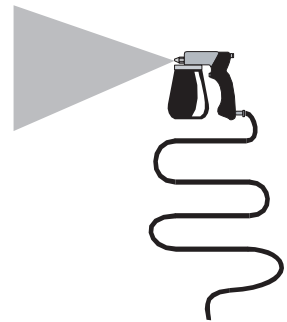
## SCAPCA's Notice of Construction Rules

New air pollution sources, modifications to existing sources, and new or altered air pollution control equipment are required to go through Notice of Construction approval prior to the construction, installation, establishment, or modification (See Regulation I, Article V). Some of the equipment and activities that require approval include: boilers, spray-coating operations, use of solvents, gasoline storage and dispensing, degreasing, dry cleaning, paper manufacturing, printing operations, fiberglass fabrication, metal casting, and coffee roasting.

The Notice of Construction and Application for Approval form must be completed and submitted along with any detailed schematics, associated environmental information, modeling results, applicable fees, and other pertinent information. A Notice of Construction Info Sheet, which provides a detailed overview of the process, is available online at [www.scapca.org](http://www.scapca.org) or call SCAPCA for a copy.

## Surface Coating Rule

SCAPCA's Surface Coating Rule applies to many different kinds of businesses (see Regulation I, Section 6.13). It addresses emissions from surface coating operations including volatile organic compounds, toxic air pollutants and particulate matter. The regulations are designed to reduce particulate emissions, reduce public exposure to toxics, prevent atmospheric ozone formation and encourage pollution prevention.



## Dust Control Requirements

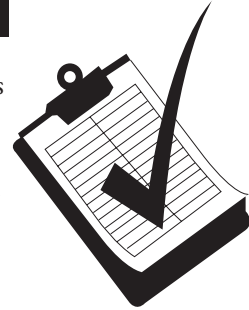
Dust from unpaved surfaces and dirt tracked onto paved surfaces contributes significantly to Spokane's particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) air pollution. To reduce these types of emissions, SCAPCA requires that dirt tracked onto paved surfaces be promptly removed and that reasonable measures be taken to control dust from unpaved areas. These requirements apply to many different operations, such as construction, landscaping, and road work.

## Renovation, Demolition and Asbestos Rules

To protect public health from asbestos exposure, SCAPCA operates a comprehensive asbestos program. If your business is involved, directly or indirectly, in any renovation or demolition activities, you need to contact SCAPCA for a specialized packet of information pertinent to your project.

### How Can My Business Stay In Compliance with SCAPCA Regulations?

SCAPCA conducts periodic inspections of registered businesses and organizations to verify compliance with existing regulations. In addition, SCAPCA inspects facilities that are not registered to determine if they should be registered and are complying with air quality regulations. Facility records are often reviewed during inspections and annual data that documents air emissions are required. The inspections also serve as a time when you can ask questions, request resource information, and learn about upcoming regulatory changes.



Keeping good records of product usage can save time when reporting throughput data to SCAPCA. Since a portion of the registration fee is based on production, it is important that records be maintained showing the amount of raw materials used and annual production for your facility. Also, many other programs require record keeping. Be sure to review your Notice of Construction approval requirements and/or ask your SCAPCA inspector what records need to be kept for your facility.

In addition, if you implement measures that improve efficiencies and reduce the amount of toxic substances used, your SCAPCA registration fee will likely be lower. Check out the resource information SCAPCA has put together on different industrial processes that can help you identify ways to reduce air emissions and your permit/registration fees.

### How Can I Get More Information About Air Pollution Control?

SCAPCA's regulations are available for review or purchase at SCAPCA's office or online at [http://www.scapca.org/regulated\\_businesses.asp](http://www.scapca.org/regulated_businesses.asp). To assist businesses in complying with air quality requirements, SCAPCA has also developed a series of info sheets, newsletters, and resource documents that may help your business prevent and control air pollution. Agency staff can help you access air quality and pollution prevention information that can help your business stay in compliance and likely, save money. For online air quality compliance materials, visit [www.scapca.org/business\\_compliance.asp](http://www.scapca.org/business_compliance.asp).

Call or visit SCAPCA to request information and/or set up a meeting:

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