

MLHU, in their second of two paragraphs entitled "Health Prevention Methods" found in the March 30, 2016 report to CPSC "Open Air Burning By-Law - Air Quality & Enforcement" didn't see fit to breathe a single word about a ban. Rather, it would certainly seem that, their solution is to have us all just learn to live with it. Those empowered with "promoting and protecting the health of our community" had this advice for those who find themselves assaulted by wood smoke pollution from an outdoor fire(s) in their neighbourhood.

"If symptoms are experienced, it is recommended to limit outdoor wood burning, stay indoors with central air conditioning,

replace your furnace / central air HEPA filters every 3 months, and eliminate indoor air pollution such as tobacco smoke."



**Wood Burning is a Major Source of Particulate Pollution**

Fine particulate pollution, or PM<sub>2.5</sub>, has been strongly linked with increased illness and higher death rates, even at relatively low levels (see our [Particulate Pollution](#) page). Residential wood burning is a major source of PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution in many communities.

## **Not Reflected by Community-Wide Monitoring**

Residential wood burning creates islands of neighborhood pollution that are not fully reflected in official monitoring numbers.

Even during periods of relatively good air quality as reflected by regional monitoring, neighbors of wood-burning households can be exposed to levels of air pollutants 100 times higher or more than the rest of the community. According to [a report](#) jointly issued by the California EPA and California Air Resources Board, “for sensitive individuals this could lead to health effects even when air quality measurements indicate no risk.”

## **Closing Windows Won't Keep it Out**

The particulates in wood smoke are so microscopically small, not only can they reach into the deepest part of people's lungs and even enter the bloodstream once inhaled, but they also infiltrate into homes from outside, even with the windows closed. If a house could be sealed up tightly enough to keep out wood smoke, then it would become so airtight it would also keep out the oxygen needed to sustain life. Even in the most modern, insulated house, air from outside still infiltrates in.

For example, a [2014 study](#) in a town in California found that an average of 78% of black carbon particles from wood smoke outside eventually wound up inside surrounding homes. It was concluded that a typical residential house offers little protection from outdoor wood smoke. “This,” wrote the researchers, “is an important conclusion for sensitive individuals who try to avoid inhalation by seeking protection inside a home.”