

The following is excerpted from The Canadian Lung Association, their moniker is
B R E A T H E
the lung association

One of several conundrums that London's current Outdoor Burning By-law fosters is the inescapable fact that low wind speed allows wood smoke pollution to blanket an area for up to days, while higher wind speeds increase the risk of fire.

With London's current by-law in effect, one might conclude that you just can't win when it comes to outdoor burning and winds speeds.

Winds speeds are variable, sometimes minute to minute, and then there are gusts, or virtually no wind speed.

Ah, there goes Mother Nature, always outsmarting us.

Residential Wood Burning

Residential wood smoke is caused by homeowners when they burn wood through fireplaces, wood stoves, chimneys or wood boilers (hydronic heaters). Wood smoke contains many small particulates that can be breathed in to your lungs and cause breathing problems. If you have a lung disease, it can make your lung disease worse.

How wood smoke hurts human health

Smoke is a complex mixture of gases and microscopic particles that can irritate eyes and airways, and may cause or aggravate respiratory illness and heart disease. In some rare cases, breathing smoke can cause death.

Smoke from an open fire can seriously pollute your neighbourhood. This is especially true when burning takes place on calm days with no wind. The particles and gases produced can build to levels that are harmful for days.

Closing doors and windows will not help. Smoke can easily waft through small cracks and holes, polluting your indoor air as well as the outdoor air.