



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

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Protect sensitive people from heavy fireworks smoke

MEDIA CONTACT: Brian Hutchins at 515-725-9550 or Brian.Hutchins@dnr.iowa.gov.

WINDSOR HEIGHTS – Whether attending a spectacular Fourth of July celebration or a picnic with backyard fireworks, the aftermath of drifting smoke can cause breathing problems for some. If the air is stagnant, fine particles can be trapped near the ground and build to unhealthy levels.

“If your family or friends suffer from asthma or respiratory difficulties, it’s important for them to stay upwind, a safe distance from fireworks smoke,” says Brian Hutchins, DNR air quality supervisor. “The elderly and children are also vulnerable to higher levels of smoke.”

Smoke contains fine particles and gases, which can be hard on the lungs. Fine particles in fireworks’ smoke are produced from black powder used to shoot fireworks skyward along with the metals that produce brilliant colors.

Those unable to avoid areas of dense smoke should limit outdoor activity and contact their health care provider if they experience difficulty breathing.

Last year, Fourth of July fireworks in Des Moines gave rise to levels of fine particles that exceeded national standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Learn more about [fine particles \(PM2.5\)](#) and how [fireworks displays](#) can affect sensitive populations.

Finally, play it safe and [dispose of your unused fireworks](#) safely.

DNR enforcement actions

MEDIA CONTACT: Ed Tormey, DNR, at 515-725-8373 or Ed.Tormey@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES – DNR staff work with individuals, businesses and communities to help them protect our natural resources by complying with state and federal laws. This approach is very effective. In the few cases where compliance cannot be achieved, the DNR issues enforcement actions. The following list summarizes recent enforcement actions. Find the entire, original orders on DNR's website at www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions.

Consent Orders

A consent order is issued as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

Chickasaw County

Jeffry Smith

Revocation of drinking water treatment and drinking water distribution certifications and prohibition from holding any DNR drinking water/wastewater certifications in the future.

Palo Alto County

Curt Berkland

Pay \$3,000 penalty to resolve animal feeding operation violations in connection with the construction of a confinement building.

Polk County

Synergy Contracting, L.L.C

Prohibition on unlawfully discharging pollutants to a water of the state and payment of \$1,500 penalty.

Sioux County

Rolling View Farms, Inc.

Pay \$2,000 penalty to resolve violations of construction permit conditions.

Administrative Orders

Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the order or 60 days to pay the penalty.

Pocahontas County

Luft & Sons, Inc.

Cease unlawful open burning and open dumping of solid wastes and pay \$6,486 penalty.

Polk County

SKG Enterprises, Inc.

Comply with UST release detection requirements for tanks and piping, conduct necessary inspections and pay \$10,000 penalty.

Air Quality permits under review

MEDIA CONTACT: Lori Hanson, DNR, at 515-725-9525

or Lori.Hanson@dnr.iowa.gov for Title V permits; or Sarah Piziali, DNR, at 515-725-9549 or Sarah.Piziali@dnr.iowa.gov for construction permits.

DES MOINES – The DNR Air Quality Bureau has the following draft permits up for review. The permits help protect Iowans' health and the air where we live. DNR's permitting staff review the applications to ensure facilities comply with state and federal air quality standards. The public has the right and is encouraged to comment on draft permits. DNR considers [public comments](#) before finalizing the permits. Submit comments in writing to the assigned permit writer before 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the public comment period.

Title V Operating Permits

Title V Operating permits are reviewed and re-issued every five years. Facilities with a Title V permit have the potential to emit large amounts of air pollutants compared to other facilities. The five-year reviews are a federal requirement and ensure adequate monitoring is included in the permit. The DNR plans to issue Title V Operating Permits for the following facilities. Find permit details at www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft.

Johnson County

Iowa City Sanitary Landfill located at 3900 Hebl Ave., S.W., Iowa City

The application was submitted to operate their existing Refuse Systems facility. The public comment period ends July 21.

Scott County

John Deere Davenport Works located at 1175 E. 90th St., Davenport

The application was submitted to operate their existing Construction Machinery and Equipment facility. The public comment period ends July 21.

Construction Permits

DNR engineers review and issue construction permits to facilities before they build new or modified sources of air pollution. The public may review the following air quality construction permits available online at www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch.

Cerro Gordo County

Golden Grain Energy, 1822 43rd Street SW, Mason City

Project 18-156, Modification of permits for existing scrubbers and RTOs. Public comment period ends July 16.

Chickasaw County

Homeland Energy Solutions, LLC, 2779 IA Highway 24, Lawler

Project 18-201, Modification of maximum capacity of corn unloading pits, flowrate, and capacity of conveyors. Public comment period ends July 20.

Muscatine County

Grain Processing Corporation, 1600 Oregon St., Muscatine

Project 18-130, Modification of permit for PM2.5 emission rate. Public comment period ends July 16.