

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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PRESS RELEASE

- Uncontrolled burning of MSW including bio-mass (wood, twigs/ branches, dried leaves etc.) across Delhi-NCR, particularly during the winter months is a cause of concern from the standpoint of air quality and human health;
- The practice of open burning of bio-mass and MSW during winter season, expeditiously aggravates PM_{2.5} / PM₁₀ levels in the ambient air besides other harmful gaseous pollutants and thus results in imposition of preventive/ restrictive actions under different stages of the GRAP in the entire NCR;
- CAQM since its inception, has issued advisories, orders and directions towards mitigating the ill-effects of such uncontrolled open burning of waste/ biomass;
- Open burning of MSW and bio-mass etc., besides at other locations, is also witnessed across residential areas and is resorted to by the security staff / other service providers, particularly in gated residential complexes across Delhi during night times in the winters for heating/ warming purposes;
- CAQM issues an Advisory to all RWAs and other residential societies in Delhi to mandatorily provide electric heaters/ other suitable implements to all security staff and other service staff employed by them, aimed at curbing open burning practices, especially during the forthcoming winter season;
- RWAs and residents at large also advised to be actively involved in fulfilling the collective responsibility to significantly improve upon the adverse air quality which is generally witnessed in Delhi during the winter months;
- The Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, GNCTD and the municipal bodies advised to sensitise and widely disseminate this requirement amongst all the RWAs in Delhi and monitor the implementation of the same periodically, under advise to the Commission

NEW DELHI:

In a decisive move to significantly control open bio-mass/ Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) burning and the resultant harmful emissions impacting overall air quality of the National Capital Region (NCR) especially during the upcoming winter season, the

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has issued an Advisory to all Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and other residential societies in Delhi to mandatorily provide electric heaters/ other suitable implements to all security staff and other service staff employed by them, aimed at curbing open burning practices.

With winters approaching, the Commission recognizes the urgent need to issue an Advisory to tackle the issue of uncontrolled burning of MSW including bio-mass (wood, twigs/ branches, dried leaves etc.) across Delhi-NCR, particularly during the winter months. The practice of open burning of bio-mass and MSW by security personnel and other individuals during winter season, often as a means to stay warm, expeditiously aggravates $PM_{2.5}$ / PM_{10} levels in the ambient air besides other harmful gaseous pollutants and thus results in imposition of preventive/ restrictive actions under different stages of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in the entire NCR.

The Commission, since its inception, has issued advisories, orders and directions towards mitigating the ill-effects of such uncontrolled open burning of waste/ biomass. Open burning of MSW and bio-mass etc., besides at other locations, is also witnessed across residential areas and is resorted to by the security staff / other service providers, particularly in gated residential complexes across Delhi during night times in the winters for heating/ warming purposes.

The Commission's latest Advisory to RWAs across NCR emphasizes the importance of providing sustainable alternatives such as electric heaters to mitigate the need for open burning, thereby reducing the emission of pollutants and contributing to cleaner, air for all. Further, RWAs and residents at large also need to be actively involved in fulfilling the collective responsibility to significantly improve upon the adverse air quality which is generally witnessed in Delhi during the winter months.

In furtherance, the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, GNCTD and the municipal bodies have also been advised to sensitise and widely disseminate this requirement amongst all the RWAs in Delhi and also monitor the implementation of the same periodically, under advise to the Commission.
