

## **Appendix B**

### **Missoula's Emergency Episode Avoidance Plan Operations and Procedures**

#### Surveillance.

The department monitors air quality in Missoula throughout the year. It operates several monitoring sites, which are part of Montana's emergency episode surveillance network. The department checks and records particulate data from the continuous analyzer regularly in the air pollution season of November through February and has the ability to obtain CO and particulate data during the rest of the year on an as-needed basis.

#### Meteorological forecasting.

During the air pollution season, the department predicts particulate dispersion using forecasts by the Missoula office of the National Weather Service. When the smoke management group monitoring unit is operating, the department may also use the dispersion forecasts of the unit's meteorologist to predict air pollution levels. During an emergency episode, the department obtains needed meteorological information from the National Weather Service and, when appropriate, from the DEQ meteorologist and has the ability to collect t-sonde data on an as-needed basis.

#### Monitoring.

During air pollution episodes, the department may increase the frequency of monitoring, may monitor for additional air pollutants and may increase the number of sites it monitors for air pollutants.

#### Staffing.

During air pollution episodes, air quality staff focuses on activities required by this Chapter 4 of this Program. If additional staffing is needed, environmental health staff may be assigned air pollution control duties. During emergency and crisis episodes, the department coordinates with the Missoula County Disaster and Emergency Services interagency team.

#### Communications.

The department updates the Missoula Air Quality Hotline twice a day during the air pollution season and on an as-needed basis during the rest of the year. During an emergency episode, the department contacts the media and sources with abatement plans via fax and phone. The department also contacts Mountain Line buses. During Warning, Emergency and Crisis stages, the department appoints a staff member as the lead for communications. That person is responsible for coordinating with the media, DEQ, public officials, and specific sections of the affected public (e.g., schools, businesses, etc.) At least one member of the staff is responsible for participating and coordinating with the Missoula County Disaster and Emergency Services interagency team.