

# MEMORANDUM

## CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU

Lands and Resources Office  
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**TO:** Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, Chair of the Assembly LHED Committee  
**FROM:** Dan Bleidorn, Lands and Resources Manager *Daniel Bleidorn*  
**SUBJECT:** Mendenhall Valley Air Quality Program Staff Report  
**DATE:** December 9, 2022

From October 1<sup>st</sup> until April 30<sup>th</sup>, Lands staff monitors the Mendenhall Valley's air quality for concentrations of particulate matter. The data utilized for this program is provided to the City from the State of Alaska Division of Air Quality via an air quality monitoring station located on the roof of Floyd Dryden Middle School.

The Assembly provided the City Manager with the authority to call and cancel air pollution emergencies through the adoption of Ordinance 2008-28. The Mendenhall Valley Air Quality Monitoring Program is the result of the implementation of the Federal Clean Air Act. Monitoring is necessary due to the area's susceptibility to air inversions, which trap the fine particulate matter generated by wood-burning stoves. Particulate matter can significantly affect the health of children, the elderly, and people with respiratory conditions.

When particulate matter reaches, or is predicted to reach, an unhealthy level the City Manager will declare an air emergency, which prevents all wood stoves in the Valley from being used. Lands staff monitors the concentration of particulate matter seven days a week and air emergencies can be called at night and on the weekends.

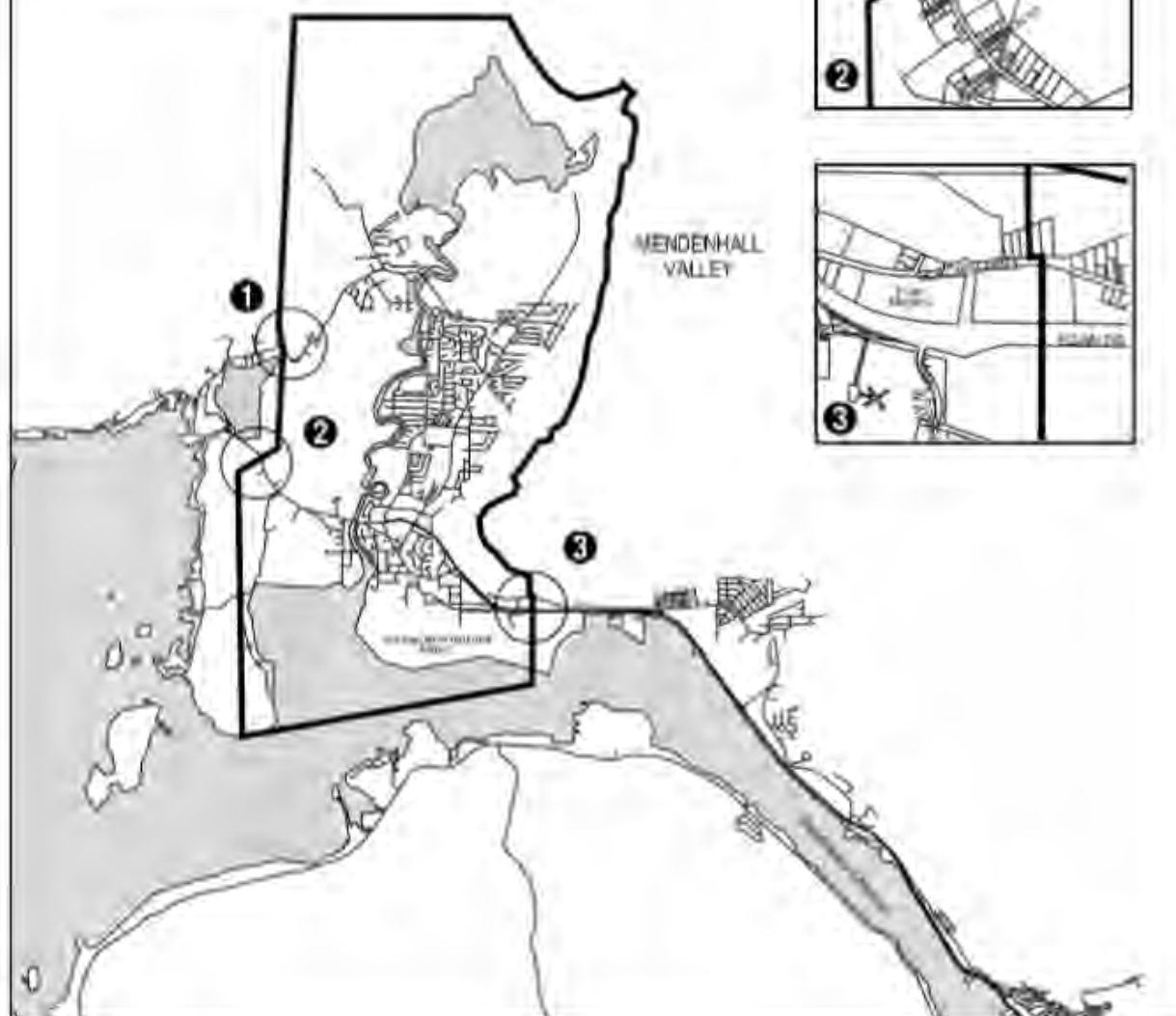
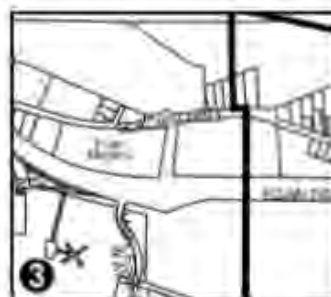
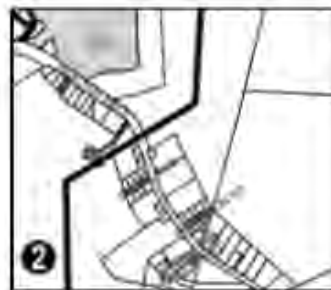
During an air emergency, the public is informed in a number of ways:

- 11 large yellow signs that are flipped open and are located throughout the streets of the Valley
- The Woodsmoke Hotline, 907-586-5252, is updated with a message that states there is an air emergency in effect
- Lands website is updated with a red banner stating an air emergency is in effect
- Radio stations will play a Public Service Announcement
- City of Juneau social media will issue a Public Service Announcement
- People who have signed up for an automated text message will receive a text notification

All of these steps are repeated when an air emergency is canceled. The area covered by the Valley's Woodsmoke Hazard Area extends from the Airport north to the Mendenhall Glacier, west to Montana Creek, and south along the eastern shore of Auke Lake and includes the east half of the Mendenhall Peninsula (see attached map).

# MENDENHALL VALLEY SMOKE HAZARD AREA

City & Borough of Juneau, Alaska



Sept 30, 1985