

Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers



States representing 95% of OWBs Sold



Characteristics of Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers (OWB)

- OWBs do not generally use emission control devices that woodstoves use
- OWB use has become increasingly prevalent
- OWBs emit significantly more PM emissions than wood stoves
- There is a lack of information regarding PAHs and dioxins

OWB Unique Issues

- OWBs are designed for year round operation
- The Cyclic nature of OWB operation does not allow for complete combustion
- Stacks from OWBs are usually less than 12 feet high, resulting in poor dispersion
- Oversized firebox allows burning tires, refuse and railroad ties
- Emissions 22 to 40 times greater than certified wood stoves
- Complaints continue to increase

EPA OWB Activity

- EPA is working on ASTM to establish test method which is close to consensus
- EPA has reached voluntary agreement with largest OWB manufacturer to reduce emissions from 160 to 30 grams PM/hour by May 2006
- EPA held on 5-15-06 an OWB caucus with other major OWB manufacturers
- NESCAUM is developing a model rule including emission limits, stack heights and proximity restrictions