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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Air Quality Advisory of the Winter Carbon Monoxide Season Issued by the Clark County Health District

(Las Vegas, Nev. December 17, 1999) – The Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) of the Clark County Health District (CCHD) issued the first air quality advisory of the carbon monoxide season today as levels approach the unhealthy range.

Residents are urged to avoid unnecessary trips in their cars, to use the Citizens Area Transit (CAT) whenever possible and to not burn wood in their fireplaces during the evening hours.

Carbon monoxide builds up in Southern Nevada primarily from November through January when temperature inversions are frequent. An inversion occurs when cooler, heavier air is trapped beneath lighter, warmer air, causing carbon monoxide emissions to become increasingly concentrated. The emissions are slow to dilute or blow away, and are held in place by existing weather patterns in the valley, between encircling mountain ranges.

Carbon monoxide can be worse in the wintertime months because cars need more fuel to start-up, and certain parts of the engine may not operate as efficiently. Most emissions (94 percent) in Southern Nevada come from motor vehicles. The

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remaining six percent stems from residential wood burning, lawn mowers, off-road vehicles and construction equipment.

For more information regarding carbon monoxide levels in the Las Vegas Valley call APCD's Air Quality Index hotline at 385-4613.

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