



Open Burning Education for Children

Air Defenders is an educational resource on open burning, air quality and respiratory health, developed by the Wisconsin Environmental Health Association in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. It's designed to help health officials and other community educators, as well as teachers, create fun and valuable hands-on classroom lessons for students.

The program evolved after county health officials in rural Wisconsin noticed a dramatic increase in the number of asthma cases in rural children. Officials attributed this increase in part to toxic emissions from open burning and poor air quality.

"Air Defenders: The Quest for Clean Air" is an interdisciplinary, multi-media educational program and Web site for students 10 years old and up. Students earn their Air Defender badge while pursuing their quest to clean the air and protect community health. Students learn through activities in science, health education and music lessons that meet U.S. and Wisconsin academic standards. These lessons develop critical thinking with a focus on finding solutions for home and farm waste disposal, exploring the physics and chemistry of waste incineration and open burning, and on the related issues of air quality and human respiratory health.

How to get an Air Defenders Kit:

Because of reproduction costs, we are not supplying Air Defenders materials in this binder, but copies are available to interested parties. Log on to www.airdefenders.org, or call the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) in Madison, WI at (608) 266-6790.

Wisconsin residents may order one copy of the kit for free. Non-residents and Wisconsin residents who would like multiple copies may order the kit for a small fee. Shipping and handling charges will apply.

