



## WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

A joint message from the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD) and partners

August 14, 2018  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Air Quality Public Service Announcement

Wildfires remain active throughout Northern California and Oregon. The fires with the potential to impact our area (depending on conditions) continue to be the Klondike/Taylor and Natchez Fire (Southern Oregon), Carr and Hirz Fire (Shasta/Eastern Trinity County), and the Mendocino Complex (Lake/Mendocino County).

#### Humboldt & Del Norte

Inland Humboldt and Del Norte County will continue to see increased smoke impacts from the fires with perhaps better dispersion forecast for Wednesday. An Air Quality Advisory for "Unhealthy" conditions has been issued today (8/14) for Orleans, Hoopa, and Weitchpec. Weak inversion conditions are expected and smoke will linger in drainage areas. Coastal areas could have minor smoke impacts this morning (8/14) as Northeast winds transport smoke from southern OR fires. Smoke originating from wildfires in Canada and has also been slowly moving down along the coast.

Smoke from the Mendocino Complex is expected to again make its way northward into the inland areas. The monitor in Garberville continues to indicate "Good" to "Moderate" conditions as the smoke seems to be staying to the East in the Eel River drainage.

#### Trinity County

Weak inversions in the valleys and drainages will continue to keep smoke levels elevated. Light southerly winds over the next couple of days will bring limited relief. An Air Quality Advisory for "Unhealthy" conditions has been issued today (8/14) for Weaverville, Lewiston, and Trinity Center.

Particulate Matter (PM2.5) monitors are presently in Crescent City, Gasquet, Klamath, Weitchpec, Orleans, Hoopa, Eureka, Weaverville, Lewiston, and Garberville. Updates will be provided as conditions change. For 24-hour Air Quality Advisory Information, call toll-free at 1-866-BURN-DAY (1-866-287-6329).

Air Quality Index (AQI)	Actions to Protect Yourself
Good	None
Moderate	Sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG)	People within USG should <b>reduce</b> prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion
Unhealthy	People within USG should <b>avoid all</b> prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion
Very Unhealthy	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion
Hazardous	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity

Fire information can be found at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> or at [www.calfire.ca.gov](http://www.calfire.ca.gov). Current weather information can be found at [www.wrh.noaa.gov](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov).

## **Health Information for Smoke Impacts**

Concentrations of smoke may vary depending upon location, weather, and distance from the fire. Smoke from wildfires and structure fires contain harmful chemicals that can affect your health. Smoke can cause eye and throat irritation, coughing, and difficulty breathing. People who are at greatest risk of experiencing symptoms due to smoke include: those with respiratory disease (such as asthma), those with heart disease, young children, and older adults.

These sensitive populations should stay indoors and avoid prolonged activity. All others should limit prolonged or heavy activity and time spent outdoors. Even healthy adults can be affected by smoke. Seek medical help if you have symptoms that worsen or become severe.

If you can see, taste, or feel smoke, contact your local health department and/or primary healthcare provider. This is especially important if you have health concerns, are elderly, are pregnant, or have a child in your care.

Follow these general precautions to protect your health during a smoke event:

- Minimize or stop outdoor activities, especially exercise
- Stay indoors with windows and doors closed as much as possible
- Do not run fans that bring smoky outdoor air inside – examples include swamp coolers, whole-house fans, and fresh air ventilation systems
- Run your air-conditioner only if it does not bring smoke in from the outdoors. Change the standard air conditioner filter to a medium or high efficiency filter. If available, use the “re-circulate” or “recycle” setting on the unit
- Do not smoke, fry food, or do other things that will create indoor air pollution

If you have lung disease (including asthma) or heart disease, closely monitor your health and contact your doctor if you have symptoms that worsen.

Consider leaving the area until smoke conditions improve if you have repeated coughing, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest tightness or pain, palpitations, nausea, unusual fatigue, lightheadedness.

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1-866-BURN-DAY (1-866-287-6329).**

**For further information, visit the District's website at  
[www.ncuaqmd.org](http://www.ncuaqmd.org)**

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