



WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

August 20, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Air Quality Public Service Announcement

Depending on conditions, the fires with the potential to impact our area are: Natchez Fire and Klondike/Taylor Fires (Del Norte & Southern Oregon), Carr and Hirz Fires (Shasta/Eastern Trinity County), Mendocino Complex (Lake/Mendocino County), and the Mill Creek Ridge Fire (Humboldt/Hoopa).

Humboldt & Del Norte County

Air quality along the coast will continue to have minor smoke impacts from the Natchez and Southern Oregon fires as smoke moves south along the coast. Smoke concentrations could increase along the coast this evening through tomorrow. Smoke from the Mendocino Complex is expected to come northward into the inland drainages overnight and into the morning hours. The Mill Creek Ridge Fire will continue to have significant impacts to air quality in Hoopa, Orleans, and Weitchpec. An Air Quality Advisory for “Unhealthy” conditions has been issued today (8/20) for Orleans, Hoopa, and Weitchpec.

- Along the Coast/Eureka – “Good” to “Moderate”.
- Crescent City – “Moderate”.
- Klamath - “Moderate” early, possibly changing to “USG”.
- Gasquet - “Moderate” most of the day.
- Willow Creek - “Moderate” to “USG”, with periods of “Unhealthy”.
- Garberville - “Moderate” to “USG”.

Trinity County

USFS Air Resource Advisors indicated that a high pressure system is building over the inland area for the next several days. Winds will remain dominated by seasonal diurnal pattern with upslope/up canyon winds during the afternoon and downslope/down canyon after midnight. Inversions will hold smoke in the valleys until late in the morning. The worst air quality will occur just before the inversion lifts around noon. Once the inversion breaks, winds will pick up and smoke will dissipate. Weaverville is expected to have “USG” conditions overnight until noon when there will be periods of “Unhealthy” until late afternoon/sunset. An Air Quality Advisory for “Unhealthy” conditions has been issued today (8/20) for Lewiston.

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 reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion
Unhealthy	People within USG should avoid all prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion
Very Unhealthy	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion
Hazardous	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity

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).

Fire information can be found at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> or at www.calfire.ca.gov. Current weather information can be found at 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.

For 24-hour Air Quality Advisory Information, call toll-free at 1-866-BURN-DAY (1-866-287-6329). For further information, visit the District’s website at www.ncuaqmd.org.

**NORTH COAST UNIFIED
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**
707 L Street, Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 443-3093
www.ncuaqmd.org

