WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

August 23, 2018
Revised update

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 1 Fire (Humboldt).

Humboldt & Del Norte County
Smoke from fires in Southwestern Oregon and from further North have been impacting coastal areas. USFS Air Resource Advisors indicate that for the Northern Humboldt and Del Norte area, the overall weather and smoke dispersal is expected to be very similar to yesterday where light terrain driven winds are expected early in the day with a northwesterly breeze affecting the area later in the day. The Mill Creek 1 Fire will continue to have significant impacts to air quality along the Trinity and Klamath River drainages. An Air Quality Advisory for "Unhealthy" conditions is issued for today (8/23) for Orleans, Hoopa, and Willow Creek.

In Southern Humboldt, hazy conditions will remain area wide, but smoke impacts will continue to improve with the cooler and more humid weather.

- Along the Coast/Eureka – "Good" to "Moderate".
- Crescent City – "Good".
- Klamath - "Good".
- Weitchpec - "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" with periods of "Unhealthy".
- Gasquet - "Moderate".
- Garberville - "Moderate".

Trinity County
USFS Air Resource Advisors indicate that winds will remain dominated by season 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 – "Moderate".
- Lewiston – "Moderate".

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, Willow Creek, 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.

Cleaner Air Centers currently available:

Humboldt County

- Hoopa Neighborhood Facility,11860 State Hwy 96, Hoopa; 8am to 5pm.
- Hoopa Health Association Senior Nutrition Center will be available to tribal seniors; 768 Loop Road, Hoopa; 8am to 5pm.
- Weitchpec Tribal Office, 23001 Highway 96, Weitchpec; 9am to 5pm.
- Morek Won Community Center, 390 McKinnon Hill Road, Weitchpec; Mon-Fri 9am to 3pm.

Trinity County

- Lewiston Community Center, 302 Texas Ave, Lewiston; 8am to 5pm.
- Veteran's Memorial Hall, 103 Memorial Drive, Weaverville; 8am to 5pm.

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