



WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

August 18, 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 (Del Norte & Southern Oregon), Carr and Hirz Fire (Shasta/Eastern Trinity County), and the Mendocino Complex (Lake/Mendocino County).

Humboldt & Del Norte County

Inland Humboldt and Del Norte County will see the return of high pressure and hot temperatures bringing an increase in fire activity and decreased smoke dispersion in areas close to the fires. Smoke from the Mendocino Complex is expected to come northward into the inland drainages of Humboldt and Trinity County overnight and into the morning hours. Orleans, Hoopa, and Weitchpec will also begin to experience higher smoke concentrations today from the additive effects of the Mill Creek Ridge Fire. An Air Quality Advisory for "Unhealthy" conditions has been issued today (8/18) for Orleans, Hoopa, and Weitchpec.

- Air quality along the coast is expected to be "Good" to "Moderate", with periods of "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" depending on location, as smoke from the Natchez and Southern Oregon fires move south along the coast.
- Klamath is to be "Moderate".
- Gasquet is expected to be "Moderate" to "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups".
- Willow Creek is expected to be "Moderate" to "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups", with periods of "Unhealthy".
- Garberville is expected to be "Moderate" to "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups", with periods of "Unhealthy".

Trinity County

Continued burn out activity on the Carr and Hirz fires continues to increase smoke production. The level of internal fire activity near the eastern edge of the fire will determine the level of smoke impacts. Inversions will hold smoke in the valleys until late morning, but once the inversion breaks the winds will pick up and smoke will better dissipate. An Air Quality Advisory for "Unhealthy" conditions has been issued today (8/18) for Lewiston and Trinity Center.

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.

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For further information, visit the District's website at www.ncuaqmd.org

