



WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

Issued: October 11, 2020

Updated as conditions change

Updated Air Quality Public Service Announcement

Several fires continue to impact our region with smoke: Red Salmon Complex (<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6891>) and the August Complex (<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6983>). USFS Air Resource Advisors (ARAs) are assigned to fires impacting our area and provide daily smoke outlook forecasts that contribute to this three-county smoke advisory. **Air quality monitors and current AQI should be viewed at <https://fire.airnow.gov>.** If you are in an area with clean air for the first time in many days, it's a great day to open windows and doors for a while to clear your indoor air.

The ARA on the Red Salmon fire indicates that about 1/3 inch of rain fell throughout the fire area with up to 1 inch in the NW corner. No more rain is in the forecast this week, and temperatures are expected to warm again. Winds and rain yesterday did an excellent job clearing out smoke that has been stuck in low lying areas around the fire for nearly 2 weeks. A drying trend is on the way though so fire activity will increase again and smoke is likely to return later in the week. It's unlikely we will see a return to severe air quality impacts though as the fire is becoming more and more controlled.

The ARA on the August Complex indicates the recent frontal system brought lower temperatures and some rainfall across this southern area, which moderated fire behavior throughout the Complex. However, this is not expected to be a fire ending event. Heavy fuels continue to smolder and fine fuels will dry as rising temperatures, clear skies, and sustained winds are expected over the next few days. Fire activity is being monitored closely, with re-ignition conditions anticipated by midweek. Smoke has temporarily cleared from communities near the Complex. Smoldering of heavy fuels will continue to produce some smoke which will first be noticed overnight in drainages to the south and west of the fire. As temperatures rise and drier air enters the area from the northeast later this week, smoky conditions are expected to return.

Humboldt County – No ADVISORY issued today.

- Eureka/Arcata (including Rio Dell to Trinidad) – Good to Moderate conditions.
- Fortuna – Good to Moderate conditions.
- Orleans – Good to Moderate conditions.
- Weitchpec – Good to Moderate conditions.
- Hoopa – Good to Moderate conditions.
- Willow Creek – Good to Moderate conditions.
- Bridgeville – Good to Moderate conditions.
- Garberville & Redway – Good to Moderate conditions.

Del Norte County – No ADVISORY issued today.

- Crescent City – Good conditions.
- Gasquet – Good conditions.
- Klamath – Good conditions.

Trinity County – No ADVISORY issued today.

- Weaverville – Good to Moderate conditions.
- Trinity Center – Good to Moderate conditions.
- Hayfork – Good to Moderate conditions.

Air Quality Index (AQI Value)	PM 2.5 24hr avg (ug/m ³)	Actions to Protect Yourself
Good (0-50)	0-12	None
Moderate (51-100)	12-35	Sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups [USG] (101-150)	35-55	People within USG should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion
Unhealthy (151-200)	55-150	People within USG should avoid all prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion
Very Unhealthy (201-300)	150-250	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion
Hazardous (>300)	250-500	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity

Particulate Matter (PM2.5) monitors are located in Crescent City, Gasquet, Eureka, Fortuna, Weaverville, Hoopa, Weitchpec, Willow Creek, Klamath, Trinity Center, Bridgeville, and Garberville. Updates will be provided as conditions change.

Fire information can be found at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> or <https://fire.airnow.gov/>. Current weather information can be found at www.wrh.noaa.gov.

As with all wildfires, ash fallout is possible depending on fire activity and proximity to the fires. Ash fallout information can be found in the Wildfire Smoke Resources section of our webpage at www.ncuaqmd.org.

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.

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.

Updated guidance from the CDC is available on reducing wildfire smoke exposure given COVID-19 considerations: https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/covid-19/reduce_exposure_to_wildfire_smoke_covid-19.html.

For further information, visit the District’s website at www.ncuaqmd.org or call the District’s Wildfire Response Coordinator at (707) 443-3093, x122.

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

