



WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

Issued: October 6, 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>), August Complex (<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6983>), and Zogg fire. 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>.**

The ARA on the Red Salmon fire indicates warm, dry and stagnant weather conditions continue to trap smoke at lower elevations, especially near the fire. These conditions are expected to remain in place through tomorrow (Wednesday 10/7). A change in the weather is expected to begin Thursday (10/8) bringing cooler temperatures and increasing moisture along with chances of rain late in the week.

The ARA on the August Complex indicates strategic firing operations are planned today and tomorrow in several areas, for structure protection and to tie in or strengthen containment lines. If conditions are right and firing is conducted, air quality may change rapidly. Smoke continues to persist in the deep valleys, especially in inland communities closest to the fire. Light winds today and tonight will do little to clear smoke from previous days, and additional smoke is expected to be added today, especially in the Mad River and Eel River drainages. Winds from SW beginning this afternoon could bring rapidly increasing smoke levels to Hayfork, Weaverville, and Trinity Center.

Humboldt County – ALERT issued for Bridgeville, Hoopa, and Willow Creek today; ADVISORY issued for Orleans, Weitchpec and Garberville.

- Eureka/Arcata (including Rio Dell to Trinidad) – Mostly Moderate with periods of Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups.
- Orleans – Very Unhealthy.
- Weitchpec – Very Unhealthy.
- Hoopa – Hazardous conditions.
- Willow Creek – Hazardous conditions.
- Bridgeville – Hazardous.
- Garberville & Redway – Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy conditions.

Del Norte County – ADVISORY issued for Klamath.

- Crescent City – Moderate with periods of Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups.
- Gasquet – Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups with periods of Unhealthy conditions.
- Klamath – Overall Unhealthy with improvement later in the day.

Trinity County – ADVISORY issued for Weaverville, Trinity Center, Ruth-Trinity Pines, and Zenia- Kettenpom areas.

- Weaverville and surrounding communities – Overall Unhealthy.
- Hayfork – Overall Unhealthy with even Hazardous conditions possible this afternoon.
- Trinity Center – Overall Unhealthy.
- Ruth -Trinity Pines – Very Unhealthy to even Hazardous conditions possible.
- Zenia - Kettenpom – Very Unhealthy to even Hazardous conditions possible.

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.

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