



WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

Issued: October 7, 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 strategic firing operations are expected to continue today. Warm, dry, and stagnant weather conditions continue to trap smoke at lower elevations, especially near the fire. A change in the weather is expected to begin tomorrow (10/8) bringing cooler temperatures and increasing moisture along with chance of rain late in the week. Smoke will not clear right away though and fuels will continue to smolder and produce smoke even when the rain starts, but air quality is expected to improve in a few days.

The ARA on the August Complex indicates stronger southerly to southwesterly winds may clear some of the smoke in coastal areas but with heavy smoke production there is little expected improvement for communities nearest the fire. There may be visible smoke plumes in areas where firing is conducted; when these plumes collapse smoke may quickly move into surrounding areas. Areas to the north and east of the fire may experience periods of hazardous air quality. Expect smoke to settle into drainages again tonight.

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

- Eureka/Arcata (including Rio Dell to Trinidad) – Moderate in the morning. Clearing in the afternoon.
- Fortuna – Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups. Moderate to Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups in the morning. Clearing in the afternoon.
- Orleans – Overall Very Unhealthy conditions with some improvement by tomorrow.
- Weitchpec – Overall Very Unhealthy conditions.
- Hoopa – Overall Hazardous conditions expected, but with some improvement tomorrow.
- Willow Creek – Very Unhealthy to Hazardous conditions.
- Bridgeville – Hazardous conditions.
- Garberville & Redway – Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups this morning, but some Unhealthy conditions possible before clearing this afternoon.

Del Norte County – **ADVISORY** issued for Klamath.

- Crescent City – Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups with some improvement by afternoon/tomorrow.
- Gasquet – Unhealthy conditions in morning with some improvement by afternoon/tomorrow.
- Klamath – Overall Unhealthy conditions with periods Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups; some improvement expected by afternoon/tomorrow.

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

- Weaverville and surrounding communities – Unhealthy conditions.
- Hayfork – Overall Very Unhealthy conditions this morning but periods of Hazardous conditions possible in afternoon.
- Trinity Center – Overall Unhealthy conditions.
- 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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