



WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

Issued: October 8, 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. Some improvements in air quality are expected to begin today in areas around the Red Salmon fire, although it will take a day or two to clear accumulated smoke out of low lying river valleys as winds will remain light at the surface. Friday afternoon into Saturday (10/10) looks to be the time when winds will pick up and result in significant clearing.

The ARA on the August Complex indicates large pockets continuing to burn in the interior and planned firing operations are expected to contribute to heavy smoke production. Stronger 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 will move into surrounding areas and travel down drainages. Expect smoke to settle into drainages again tonight.

Humboldt County – ADVISORY issued for Orleans, Weitchpec, Hoopa, and Willow Creek.

- Eureka/Arcata (including Rio Dell to Trinidad) – Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups with clearing today, but heavy smoke again possible overnight.
- Fortuna – Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups with clearing today, but heavy smoke again possible overnight.
- Orleans – Unhealthy conditions, likely improving tomorrow afternoon.
- Weitchpec – Very Unhealthy conditions, likely improving tomorrow afternoon.
- Hoopa – Very Unhealthy conditions, likely improving tomorrow afternoon.
- Willow Creek – Very Unhealthy conditions, likely improving tomorrow afternoon.
- Bridgeville – Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups with periods of Unhealthy conditions.
- Garberville & Redway – Moderate to Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups this morning, then improvement in afternoon.

Del Norte County – ADVISORY issued for Klamath.

- Crescent City – Moderate to Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups with some improvement by afternoon/tomorrow.
- Gasquet – Moderate to Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups with some improvement by afternoon/tomorrow.
- Klamath – Overall Unhealthy conditions, improving in afternoon.

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

- Weaverville – Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups with periods of Moderate conditions.
- Hayfork – Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy conditions.
- Trinity Center – Overall Unhealthy conditions.
- Ruth -Trinity Pines – Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy conditions likely.
- Zenia - Kettenpom – Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy conditions likely.

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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