



WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

Issued: July 29, 2020
Updated as conditions change

Air Quality Public Service Announcement

Fire activity for the 2020 Wildfire Season has begun. Quick action by the Hoopa Fire Department coordinating with the Six Rivers National Forest has brought the Milepost 21 fire to 90% containment. The Milepost 21 fire is located on the Hoopa Reservation. Recent lightning activity has also started several fires within the Shasta-Trinity, Six Rivers, and Klamath National Forest. The Red Salmon Complex is located in the far Northwest corner of Trinity County in the Wilderness. Firefighters on the Red Salmon Complex are dealing with remote and steep terrain which hampers containment efforts. Presently, smoke production from the larger Salmon Fire is minimal.

Depending on your proximity and fire activity, minor smoke impacts are predicted for portions of Eastern Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties, and Northern portions of Trinity County.

The current weather forecast of high temperatures, and low humidity for the next several days will result in increased fire activity and smoke impacts to areas adjacent to the fires.

- **Humboldt County** - Coastal areas are expected to remain “Good” with periods of “Moderate” possible during the night time hours. Orleans, Weitchpec, and Hoopa should see “Good” to “Moderate” conditions with periods of “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups”.
- **Trinity County** - Trinity County is forecast to see “Good” to “Moderate” conditions with periods of “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” depending on proximity and fire activity.
- **Del Norte County** - Coastal areas are expected to remain “Good” with “Moderate” periods possible during the night time hours. Gasquet and Eastern Del Norte County are forecast to see “Good” to “Moderate” with periods of “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups”.

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 presently in Crescent City, Eureka, and Weaverville. 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 <https://fire.airnow.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.

For 24-hour Air Quality Advisory Information, call toll-free at 1-866-BURN-DAY (1-866-287-6329). For further information, visit the District’s website at www.ncuaqmd.org.

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