



WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

Issued: August 27, 2020
Updated as conditions change

Air Quality Public Service Announcement

California continues to experience multiple wildfires associated with previous lightning storms. Smoke impacts from these fires are terrain, weather and fire activity driven.

The Red Salmon Complex in Trinity County’s wilderness area is now at 21,584 acres with 42% containment. Fire activity is expected to continue due to weather conditions and strategic firing operations. The warmer weather and wind direction will determine smoke travel and impacts. Air Resource Advisors (ARA) are assigned to fires impacting our area. These ARA reports provide daily smoke outlook forecasts, which include; expected fire behavior and possible planned strategic firing operations in their air quality projections for their assigned fires.

Updates will be provided as conditions change.

- **Humboldt County** - Coastal areas are expected to remain “Good” to “Moderate” with possible periods of “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” depending on conditions. Southern Humboldt County is expected to see “Good” to “Moderate” with possible periods of “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” depending on conditions. Orleans, Hoopa, Weitchpec, and areas along the river drainages may experience “Good” to “Moderate” with periods of possible “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” depending on conditions.
- **Trinity County** – Weaverville and the surrounding communities are expected to be “Moderate” to “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” with possible periods of “Unhealthy” depending on conditions.
- **Del Norte County** – Coastal areas are expected to remain “Good” to “Moderate” depending on conditions. The interior of Del Norte County is forecast to see “Good” to “Moderate” with periods of “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” possible depending on conditions and proximity to the fire.

| 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, Eureka, Weaverville, Hoopa, Weitchpec, Willow Creek, Klamath, and Trinity Center. 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.

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

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