



WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

Issued: September 25, 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>), Slater/Devil Fire (<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7173/>). USFS Air Resource Advisors (ARAs) are assigned to fires impacting our area and provide daily smoke outlook forecasts within our jurisdiction. No Air Quality ALERTs have been issued today. **Air quality monitors and current AQI can be viewed at <https://fire.airnow.gov>.**

The ARA on the Red Salmon Fire indicates that the light rain has temporarily dampened fire behavior. Smoke was greatly reduced yesterday than the previous days. The ARA on the Slater/Devil Fires sees Moderate levels of smoke will likely pool overnight in valleys adjacent and down drainage of the fire. Coastal areas will continue to see Good air quality. A change in wind direction and a ridge of high pressure will move over the forecast area through the weekend and could bring a return to smoky conditions. The ARA on the August Complex Fire forecasts continued fire activity, both along the perimeter and in large interior pockets. Most activity is seen on the north–northwestern edge of this fire and along the western flank. Fire activity is expected to remain high with critically dry fuels and expected higher temperatures and wind shifts expected later this weekend.

Areas to the west and southwest of the fires will continue to see improved air quality as the possibility of showers move out of the area. A return to warmer weather over the weekend will bring increased temperatures and poor smoke dispersion over the weekend. Strong inversions are forecast to develop combining with a change in winds to a N-NE-offshore wind event Sat-Sun that may push smoke towards the west.

Humboldt County – No Air Quality ADVISORY issued today.

- Eureka (including Rio Dell to Trinidad) – Overall Good air quality conditions.
- Orleans – Overall Good air quality conditions.
- Weitchpec – Good air quality conditions.
- Hoopa – Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups throughout the day with Moderate overnight.
- Willow Creek – Overall Good air quality conditions.
- Garberville & Redway – Overall Good air quality conditions.

Del Norte County – No Air Quality ADVISORY issued today.

- Crescent City – Good air quality conditions.
- Gasquet – Good with periods of Moderate conditions overnight.
- Klamath – Good air quality conditions.

Trinity County – No Air Quality ADVISORY issued today.

- Weaverville and surrounding communities – Good to Moderate air quality conditions.
- Hayfork – Good to Moderate air quality conditions depending on conditions.
- Trinity Center – Good to Moderate air quality conditions.
- Ruth, Zenia-Kettenpom, Trinity Pines – Moderate to Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups with periods of Unhealthy depending on conditions.

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, 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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