



WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

Issued: September 27, 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 wind and smoke patterns are expected to be SW today. The day will start off with mostly good air quality near Hoopa Valley and Willow Creek, but concentrations of smoke will increase late in the day. Depending on how much smoke is produced, it may travel to Eureka.

The Slater and Devil fires in Eastern Del Norte and along the Oregon border will be affected by strong NE winds today and tonight before becoming easterly on Monday. Smoke transport should generally be to the SW/W. Northern coastal areas should continue to see Good air quality; however, offshore flow could potentially bring smoke to the coast if smoke production increases. A strong ridge of high pressure will be affecting this area, and we will see increased temperatures and decreasing wind speeds by midweek.

The ARA on the August Complex Fire also forecasts NE winds continue into Monday, pushing smoke to the south and southwest, affecting southern Humboldt. Hot, dry, and windy conditions will lead to an increase in smoke production and allow smoke from other fires to move into the region. Due to the elevated winds across the ridges, smoke may not settle into valleys as it typically does. However by early this upcoming week, strong high pressure will create a stagnant pattern resulting in worsening air quality for Southern Humboldt and Mendocino.

Humboldt County – No Air Quality ADVISORY issued today.

- Eureka (including Rio Dell to Trinidad) – Good conditions expected, smoke possible starting afternoon.
- Orleans – Overall Good air quality conditions.
- Weitchpec – Good conditions expected during the day, smoke overnight.
- Hoopa – Good conditions expected during the day, smoke overnight.
- Willow Creek – Good conditions expected during the day, smoke overnight.
- Garberville & Redway – Good to Moderate conditions expected during the day, potential to worsen.

Del Norte County – No Air Quality ADVISORY issued today.

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

Trinity County – No Air Quality ADVISORY issued today.

- Weaverville and surrounding communities – Generally Good air quality today.
- Hayfork – Generally Good air quality today.
- Trinity Center – Good air quality today.
- Ruth, Zenia-Kettenpom – Moderate conditions expected during the day, potential to worsen given fire behavior.
- Trinity Pines – Moderate conditions expected during the day, depending on fire behavior.

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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