



WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

Issued: September 4, 2020
Updated as conditions change

UPDATED Air Quality Public Service Announcement

Continued activity on multiple fires in Northern California will produce on-going smoke impacts for Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity Counties. USFS Air Resource Advisors (ARAs) are assigned to fires impacting our area, providing daily smoke outlook forecasts, which include expected fire behavior and possible planned strategic firing operations in their air quality projections for their assigned fires. The National Weather Service has issued a Warning in Trinity County for “Critical fire weather possible Monday due to low humidity and Gusty Ridgetop winds for Trinity County”.

The Red Salmon Complex remains active with continued fire growth to over 30,000 acres. Along the Coast, smoke will remain elevated and impacts will fluctuate along with the marine layer (ash fallout is possible). Interior areas will remain hot and dry with smoke mixing down mid-day and overnight depending on conditions. High temperatures and lower humidity through the Holiday Weekend will keep fires active, increase smoke production, and lead to poor smoke dispersion. Overnight smoke will settle into valleys and river drainages, depending on fire proximity and conditions.

- **Humboldt County** - Coastal areas are expected to remain “Good” to “Moderate” with possible periods of “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” overnight. Some ash fallout is possible. Southern Humboldt County is expected to see “Good” to “Moderate” with periods of “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” possible, depending on conditions. Orleans, Hoopa, Weitchpec, and areas along the river drainages will see “Moderate” to “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” midday with “Good” conditions possible in the evening hours.
- **Trinity County** – Weaverville and the surrounding communities are expected to generally be “Moderate” to “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” for most of the day with periods of “Unhealthy” possible depending on conditions. Hayfork is expected to see “Moderate” to “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” with periods of “Unhealthy” possible, 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.

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

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