



WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

Issued: October 4, 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/>) and Zogg fire. USFS Air Resource Advisors (ARAs) are assigned to fires impacting our area and provide daily smoke outlook forecasts that contribute to this three-county smoke advisory. **Air quality monitors and current AQI should be viewed at <https://fire.airnow.gov>.**

In northern Humboldt and Trinity County, smoke conditions today (10/4) are expected to be similar to yesterday. Ongoing fires will continue to produce abundant smoke, and air quality will be poor near the fires. Smoke produced by active fires will collect in low spots and valleys near the fires during nights and mornings, and not disperse very well during afternoons. Onshore flow will continue to bring some relief to coastal communities. Conditions in locations near the fires are expected to remain Very Unhealthy to Hazardous.

The ARA on the August Complex indicates the fire continues to have active growth along the western perimeter, especially in the N/NW corner and in the area near Covelo. Large pockets continue to burn in the interior, contributing to heavy smoke production. Less stable atmospheric conditions may result in increased fire activity today, with easterly winds tonight increasing fire potential along the western perimeter. Smoke continues to persist in the deep valleys, especially in inland communities closest to the fire. Onshore flow is expected to bring some relief to coastal communities today, but wind will shift from the east tonight, allowing smoke to return overnight and into tomorrow. Communities just west of the Complex could experience Very Unhealthy to Hazardous air quality overnight and in early morning hours.

Humboldt County – An ADVISORY is issued today for Orleans, Weitchpec, Hoopa, and Willow Creek.

- Eureka (including Rio Dell to Trinidad) – Overall Good to Moderate depending on location.
- Orleans – Overall Very Unhealthy expected.
- Weitchpec – Overall Very Unhealthy expected.
- Hoopa – Overall Very Unhealthy with even Hazardous periods.
- Willow Creek – Overall Very Unhealthy expected.
- Bridgeville – Generally Good to Moderate, likely to worsen tomorrow.
- Garberville & Redway – Generally Good to Moderate, likely to worsen in evening and tomorrow.

Del Norte County – No ADVISORY issued today.

- Crescent City – Good to Moderate.
- Gasquet – Good to Moderate.
- Klamath – Overall Good to Moderate with periods Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups.

Trinity County – An ADVISORY is issued today for Weaverville, Ruth- Trinity Pines, and Zenia - Kettenpom areas.

- Weaverville and surrounding communities – Unhealthy.
- Hayfork – Generally Moderate, likely to worsen in the afternoon/evening.
- Trinity Center – Overall Unhealthy.
- Zenia - Kettenpom – Unhealthy to even Hazardous expected depending on fire activity.
- Ruth -Trinity Pines – Unhealthy to even Hazardous expected depending on fire activity.

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, Fortuna, 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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