



WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

Issued: October 9, 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>) and the August Complex (<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6983>). 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>.**

The ARA on the Red Salmon fire indicates Increasing moisture in the atmosphere is beginning to slow the fire, although fuels remain very dry with continued burning and smoldering. Firefighters work continues all around the fire. Some small improvements in air quality are beginning to occur throughout much of the forecast area although locations close to fires remain at risk of impacts. Westerly winds are expected to pick up this afternoon and push smoke to the East. Tomorrow - Saturday (10/10) looks to be when a combination of rain and increasing winds will result in significant clearing of smoke, especially along the coast, although all areas should see improvements.

The ARA on the August Complex indicates continued active fire behavior along the western perimeter, especially in the N/NW corner and in the area near Covelo. Interior pockets continue to burn, heavy fuels continuing to smolder, and planned firing operations are all expected to contribute to smoke production. Southwesterly winds will bring improved conditions to coastal areas. Communities nearest the fire should continue to expect periods of heavy smoke. Some down drainage smoke will persist despite the presence of southwest winds, especially along the Eel and Mad River drainages.

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

- Eureka/Arcata (including Rio Dell to Trinidad) – Moderate with improving conditions today/tomorrow.
- Fortuna – Overall Moderate conditions.
- Orleans – Unhealthy with improvement tomorrow.
- Weitchpec – Unhealthy with improvement tomorrow.
- Hoopa – Unhealthy with some additional smoke from the August Complex today, but improving trend overall.
- Willow Creek – Unhealthy with some additional smoke from the August Complex today, but improving trend overall.
- Bridgeville – Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups with periods of Unhealthy conditions.
- Garberville & Redway – Moderate to Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups this morning, improving in afternoon.

Del Norte County – No ADVISORY issued today.

- Crescent City – Moderate, with improving conditions today/tomorrow.
- Gasquet – Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, with improving conditions today/tomorrow.
- Klamath – Moderate with improving conditions today/tomorrow.

Trinity County – ADVISORY issued for Hayfork, Ruth-Trinity Pines, and Zenia- Kettenpom areas.

- Weaverville – Overall Moderate with periods Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups.
- Hayfork – Overall Unhealthy conditions with periods Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups.
- Trinity Center – Overall Moderate conditions.
- Ruth -Trinity Pines – Unhealthy conditions likely.
- Zenia - Kettenpom – Unhealthy conditions likely.

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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