



AIR QUALITY SMOKE ADVISORY

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

Press release issued: August 13, 2022

The Six Rivers Lightning Complex Fire(s) continue to have more active fire behavior combined with smoke from firing operations that may produce heavier smoke for longer duration. The heaviest smoke from the fires will continue to impact nearby communities, with Hazardous air quality this afternoon and evening in Willow Creek and much of the day in Hwy 299 corridor, from Burnt Ranch to Junction City. Hoopa, Weitchpec, and Orleans should expect periods of Unhealthy air quality around noon, followed by clearing. Smoke may also linger longer in drainages over the weekend as inversion layers become stronger.

Air quality monitors and the current Air Quality Index (AQI) for communities should be viewed at <https://fire.airnow.gov>. USFS Air Resource Advisors (ARAs) are assigned to certain fires impacting our area and are providing daily Smoke Outlook Forecasts on one or more of these fires (<https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook>).

ALERT – Hazardous ■ Conditions (AQI 301 and higher, 24 hr. avg):

- Burnt Ranch, Salyer, Hawkins Bar, Junction City – Very Unhealthy to Hazardous throughout the day

ADVISORY – Unhealthy ■ to Very Unhealthy ■ Conditions (AQI 151-300 range, 24 hr. avg):

Humboldt County:

- Willow Creek – Overall Unhealthy; Very Unhealthy to Hazardous from late morning to mid afternoon
- Weitchpec – Overall Moderate; USG to Unhealthy from mid-morning to mid-afternoon, then clearing

Trinity County:

- Weaverville – Overall Unhealthy; periods of Very Unhealthy with improvement in the afternoon
- Lewiston – Overall Unhealthy; periods of Very Unhealthy with improvement in the afternoon
- Hyampom – Overall Unhealthy; periods of Very Unhealthy to Hazardous with some improvement in afternoon

Regional Smoke Outlooks – Good, Moderate, to USG Conditions (AQI 0-150 range):

Humboldt County:

- Eureka (including Scotia to Trinidad) – Good air quality conditions
- Hoopa – Overall Moderate, periods of USG to Unhealthy in the afternoon, then clearing
- Orleans – Overall Moderate, periods of Unhealthy afternoon, then clearing
- Garberville & Redway – Good

Del Norte County:

- Crescent City – Good
- Gasquet – Good
- Klamath – Good

Trinity County:

- Trinity Center – Moderate with periods of USG to Unhealthy, improvement possible in afternoon
- Hayfork – Unhealthy in morning, slight improvement possible this afternoon

U.S. EPA AIR QUALITY INDEX (<https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>)

| Notice | Level of Concern | AQI Value | Actions to Protect Yourself |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Good | 0 - 50 | None, air quality is satisfactory and poses little or no risk |
| | Moderate | 51 - 100 | Sensitive individuals should limit prolonged or heavy exertion |
| | Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG) | 101 - 150 | People within USG should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion |
| Advisory | Unhealthy (UH) | 151 - 200 | People within USG should avoid all prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion |
| | Very Unhealthy (VUH) | 201 - 300 | Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion |
| Alert | Hazardous (HAZ) | > 301 | Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity |

Smoke Impact Summary

Information from the USFS Air Resource Advisors on the fires indicate that smoke impacts from the Six Rivers Lightning Complex Fire(s) will continue to heavily impact nearby communities with Very Unhealthy air quality this afternoon and evening in Willow Creek. Hoopa, Weitchpec, and Orleans should expect a periods of Unhealthy around noon, followed by clearing. Winds from the north and northwest are expected to bring Unhealthy to Hazardous air quality in Burnt Ranch to Junction City, Hyampom and Hayfork. The inversion layer is expected to grow stronger with more smoke lingering in drainages today and tomorrow. Smoke from the Yeti Fire and the fire near Scott Bar will impact Happy Camp, Seiad Valley and Klamath River.

Particulate Matter (PM2.5) monitors are located in Crescent City, Weitchpec, Hoopa, Weaverville, and Eureka. **Air quality monitors and the current Air Quality Index (AQI) for communities should be viewed at <https://fire.airnow.gov>.**

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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 & Actions To Protect Yourself From 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.

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.

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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