



AIR QUALITY SMOKE ADVISORY

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

Press release issued: August 18, 2022

The Six Rivers Lightning Complex Fire remains active today. As conditions allow, firing operations are planned to continue for the SRF. Information from the USFS Air Resource Advisor indicates that winds today will be shifting from southerly to northwest later in afternoon and evening. Areas north of fires should see conditions improve when wind shifts to NW while areas to south and east should begin seeing deteriorating air quality.

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 [Red Box] Conditions (AQI 301 and higher, 24 hr. avg):

Trinity County:

- Burnt Ranch, Salyer, Hawkins Bar – Hazardous conditions throughout the day
- Willow Creek – Very Unhealthy to Hazardous conditions

ADVISORY – Unhealthy [Red Box] to Very Unhealthy [Purple Box] Conditions (AQI 151-300 range, 24 hr. avg):

Humboldt County:

- Hoopa – Unhealthy, with periods of Very Unhealthy to Hazardous conditions
- Weitchpec – Unhealthy; smoke impacts from southerly winds

Trinity County:

- Weaverville – Unhealthy; southerly winds should reduce smoke
- Junction City – Unhealthy; southerly winds should reduce smoke
- Hyampom – Unhealthy, with periods of Very Unhealthy to Hazardous conditions
- Lewiston – USG, with periods of Unhealthy; southerly winds should reduce smoke

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

Humboldt County:

- Eureka (including Scotia to Trinidad) – Good air quality conditions; visible haze
- Kneeland – Moderate with periods of USG to Unhealthy
- Orleans – Moderate with periods of Unhealthy; Southerly winds may increase smoke in the area
- Garberville & Redway – Moderate, with periods of USG to Unhealthy; visible haze
- Bridgeville – Moderate to USG, with periods of Unhealthy

Del Norte County:

- Crescent City, Gasquet – Good
- Klamath – Good with periods of Moderate; visible haze

Trinity County:

- Trinity Center – Moderate; improving throughout the day
- Hayfork – USG; with periods of Unhealthy late in the day

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 Advisor on the Six Rivers Lightning fire indicates that Areas north of fires should see conditions improve when wind shifts to NW while areas to south and east should begin seeing deteriorating air quality. With inversions, smoke is expected to stay thick near the surface especially in valley locations. Unhealthy to Hazardous conditions are expected in Burnt Ranch, Willow Creek, Hoopa, Hyampom, and Weitchpec. Areas east of SRF Lightning Complex (Etna, Trinity Center, and Redding) should see reduced smoke today but smoke should begin to return once winds shift to northwest.

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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