



AIR QUALITY SMOKE ADVISORY

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

Press release issued: August 9, 2022

Heavy smoke from the Six Rivers Lightning Complex will continue to impact Willow Creek and nearby communities and East along the Highway 299 corridor with Very Unhealthy to Hazardous air quality. The McKinney Fire in Siskiyou County saw light smoke production yesterday and should be similar today provided the fire remains within the current perimeter. Smoke from the Yeti Fire in Siskiyou County will continue to have some impact to the communities down the Klamath River drainage.

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):

- Burnt Ranch, Salyer, Hawkins Bar – Overall Hazardous

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

Humboldt County:

- Willow Creek – Moderate in the morning, Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups to Unhealthy with clearing overnight
- Hyampom – Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy

Trinity County:

- Weaverville – Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups with periods of Unhealthy, possible heavier smoke tonight
- Hayfork – Unhealthy this morning, clearing this afternoon, possible heavier smoke tonight

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

Humboldt County:

- Eureka (including Scotia to Trinidad) – Good air quality conditions
- Hoopa – Good to Moderate
- Weitchpec – Good to Moderate
- Orleans – Good to Moderate
- Garberville & Redway – Good

Del Norte County:

- Crescent City – Good air quality conditions
- Gasquet – Good
- Klamath – Good

Trinity County:

- Trinity Center – Good
- Lewiston – Good

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

The USFS Air Resource Advisor on the McKinney Fire in Siskiyou indicates that light smoke production yesterday and should be similar today, provided the fire remains within the current perimeter. Smoke movement will be to the north-northwest until early afternoon, then shifting to the north-northeast. The USFS ARA on the Yeti Fire indicates that fire activity has greatly decreased, but there remain some pockets of active burning and heavy fuels will continue to smolder for quite some time. The SRF Lightning Complex near Willow Creek continues to have active fire behavior. Heavy smoke from the SRF Lightning Complex is expected to impact nearby communities, with Hazardous air quality much of the day in Burnt Ranch. Periods of Very Unhealthy are also likely in Hyampom. Light onshore wind is expected to limit the amount of smoke impacting Weitchpec, Hoopa, and Willow Creek.

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.

**NORTH COAST UNIFIED
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**
707 L Street, Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 443-3093
www.ncuaqmd.org

