



AIR QUALITY SMOKE ADVISORY

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

Press release issued: August 14, 2024

Advisory updated as conditions change

The Boise Fire south of Orleans is active and smoke impacts are expected depending on conditions. Communities closest to Boise Fire and along river corridors and drainages and at higher elevations to the northeast, will see the most smoke. Nighttime inversions will break late morning bringing periods of active fire and smoke impacts. Multiple fires in Canada, Oregon and Washington remain active with elevated smoke possible along the coast into California. Where the marine layer thins, haze and smoke may be visible depending on conditions.

Air quality monitors and the current Air Quality Index (AQI) for communities should be viewed at the **EPA's AirNow Fire & Smoke Map** at <https://fire.airnow.gov>. US Forest Service Air Resource Advisors (ARAs) may have deployed on a fire and may issue Smoke Outlooks which can be found at <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook>.

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

None

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

- Coffee Creek – Overall Unhealthy with periods of Very Unhealthy to Hazardous

Regional Smoke Outlooks – Good ■, **Moderate** ■, to **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** ■ (AQI 0-150 range):

Humboldt County:

- Eureka area (including Scotia to Trinidad) – Overall Good conditions
- Orleans – Overall Moderate conditions, with periods of USG to Unhealthy in the afternoon
- Weitchpec – Overall Moderate conditions, with periods of USG to Unhealthy in the afternoon
- Hoopa – Overall Good to Moderate conditions, with periods of USG in the afternoon, haze aloft
- Willow Creek – Overall Good to Moderate conditions, with periods of Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG)
- Garberville – Overall Good conditions
- Shelter Cove – Overall Good conditions

Del Norte County:

- Crescent City – Overall Good conditions, possible haze
- Gasquet – Overall Good conditions, possible haze
- Klamath – Overall Good conditions, with periods of Moderate

Trinity County:

- Weaverville area – Overall Good conditions, with periods of Moderate, haze aloft
- Trinity Center – Overall Moderate conditions, with periods of USG to Unhealthy
- Hayfork – Overall Good conditions
- Hyampom – Overall Good conditions
- Mad River, Ruth – Overall Good conditions

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

Information on the current Air Quality Index (AQI) for particulate matter, fire locations and smoke plumes, and US Forest Service Air Resource Advisor (ARA) Smoke Outlook Forecasts, are available at the **EPA's AirNow Fire & Smoke Map** at <https://fire.airnow.gov>.

US Forest Service Air Resource Advisors (ARAs) are assigned to certain fires that may impact our area and typically provide daily Smoke Outlook Forecasts for local communities around active wildfires at: <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook>.

Clean Air Centers provide a safe place to go during periods of intense wildfire smoke or poor air quality. For information about available Clean Air Centers go to **CARB's CA Clean Air Centers** at: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/cleanaircenters>.

For information about **School Air Quality and Outdoor Activity Guidance during wildfires** please visit: <https://www.ncuaqmd.org/aq-guidance-for-schools>.

Fire information can be found at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> or <https://fire.airnow.gov/> or app.watchduty.org. As with all wildfires, ash fallout is possible. 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

For information on the steps, you can take to keep your family safe before and during wildfire season visit **CARB's Smoke Ready California** (<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/smokereadyca>).

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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