



NORTH COAST UNIFIED AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
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Issued August 27, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wildfire Smoke Public Service Announcement

Smoke, haze, and degraded air quality conditions continue throughout Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity Counties due to the numerous fires in the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forest as well as State Responsibility Areas.

Air Resource Advisors/Meteorologists for the Shasta-Trinity & Six Rivers Complexes expect one more day of warm, dry, southwesterly flow in advance of an approaching cold front which should move through Saturday morning bringing rain to northwest California. Smoke today will be primarily confined to areas closest to the active burning near the Bear and Peak fires of the Gasquet Complex, the River and South Complexes and the Lassic Fire in the Mad River Complex. The Democrat Fire near Weaverville is at 128 acres and 60% percent contained. Weaverville residents can expect additional local smoke from this fire.

Weather forecasts indicate today's weather will remain similar to Wednesday, with a big change in the weather pattern on Friday. A low pressure system will move onshore Friday night and inland Saturday bringing gusty southerly winds. Most areas will have gusts of 25 to 35 mph, but higher elevation areas could see gusts of 40 to 50 mph. Inland areas will remain dry or have only a few light showers with this system. Inland areas will see an increase in humidity with much cooler temperatures expected for the weekend. Drier and warmer conditions will return Monday, but another weather system will be moving toward the region Tuesday onward next week. Most locations may continue to see some high concentrations for a few hours each day.

Particulate Matter (PM2.5) concentrations continued to be monitored throughout the air District at the following locations: Crescent City, Gasquet, Orleans, Weitchpec, Hoopa, Willow Creek, Burnt Ranch, Weaverville, Hayfork, Hyampom, Mad River, Eureka, and Garberville. An *Unhealthy Advisory* has been issued for several communities near the fires (see www.ncuaqmd.org).

These are the main fires of interest that are generating smoke:

- Mad River Complex** (Humboldt/Trinity County)
- Humboldt Complex** (Humboldt County)
- Route Complex** (Humboldt County)
- Nickowitz Fire** (Humboldt/Del Norte County)
- Horse Fire** (Humboldt County)
- Gasquet Complex** (Del Norte County)
- South Complex** (Hyampom (Trinity County)
- River Complex** (Humboldt/Trinity County)
- Fork Complex** (Trinity County)
- Rocky Fire** – Lower Lake (Lake County)

Fire Information can be found at www.inciweb.nwcg.gov.



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.

If you can see, taste, or feel smoke, contact your local health department and/or primary healthcare provider. This is especially important if you have health concerns, are elderly, are pregnant, or have a child in your care.

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.

**For 24-hour Air Quality Advisory Information, call toll-free at
1-866-BURN-DAY (1-866-287-6329).**

**For further information, visit the District’s website at
www.ncuagmd.org**

