



## WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

Issued August 31, 2017  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Air Quality Advisory

## **Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy Conditions**

For the following areas:

#### **HUMBOLDT and TRINITY COUNTY:**

***Unhealthy with periods of Very Unhealthy and Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups*** smoke levels for communities in the Klamath River Drainage (Orleans, Weitchpec, Hoopa, and Willow Creek) and the Trinity River Drainage (Hawkins Bar, and Salyer)

Smoke levels in these areas are forecast to be *Unhealthy* with periods of *Very Unhealthy and Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups*. Stable weather conditions will lead to poor smoke dispersion and poor air quality in canyons and valleys near the active fires.

Updates will be provided should conditions change.

#### **People are recommended to restrict outdoor activities when possible.**

Symptoms that may be related to excess smoke exposure include:

- Repeated coughing
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Wheezing
- Chest tightness or pain
- Palpitations
- Nausea or unusual fatigue
- Lightheadedness

If you have any of the symptoms listed above, contact your health care provider. Please see the NCUAQMD's General Public Service Announcement for recommendations on limiting smoke exposure.

**For 24-hour Air Quality Advisory Information, call the NCUAQMD's hotline toll-free at 1-866-BURN-DAY (1-866-287-6329), or visit the website at [www.ncuaqmd.org](http://www.ncuaqmd.org).**

## 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.ncuaqmd.org](http://www.ncuaqmd.org)**

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