



**NORTH COAST UNIFIED AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**
707 L Street, Eureka, CA 95501
Telephone (707) 443-3093 FAX (707) 443-3099
<http://www.ncuaqmd.org>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wildfire Smoke Public Service Announcement



Smoke, haze, and degraded air quality is being experienced throughout Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity Counties due to numerous wildfires in the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forest as well as the State Responsibility Areas. It is anticipated that smoke from the Rocky Fire in Lake County will also head northward.



Weather forecasts indicate smoke will likely settle in nearby canyons, valleys, and basins during nights and mornings and cause very poor air quality, but afternoon conditions will allow smoke to lift up and drift, to the N to NE today and Wednesday, and in variable directions on Thursday.



Variable meteorological conditions and fire activity could result in localized areas of reduced air quality. Air quality monitors continue to show low particulate matter concentrations in the Good to Moderate range in the greater Humboldt Bay and Eureka area and the coast. However depending upon your proximity and in areas near the fires smoke concentrations could range from Moderate to Unhealthy to even Hazardous. These conditions are problematic for those with health conditions (see below for proactive measures).



Recent information regarding the fires of interest:

Rocky Fire – Lower Lake (Lake County). Size 62,000 acres & 12% contained. Fire Information – 707-967-1456

Fork Complex – Trinity County. Size is 25,313 acres & 5% contained.

Mad River Complex – (Humboldt/Trinity County). Size 13,557 acres & 8% contained.

Humboldt Lightning Complex – (Humboldt County). 2,692 acres & 15% contained.

River Complex – (Trinity County). Size 3,745 acres & 0% contained.

Fire Information – www.inciweb.nwcg.gov

Gasquet Complex – (Del Norte County). Size 480 acres & 10% contained.



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**

