



WILDFIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

Updated September 3, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Air Quality Public Service Announcement

Smoke dispersion conditions will remain poor for today and possibly tomorrow, until the existing strong high pressure begins to weaken. Strong inversions will likely still form in canyons and basins, and air quality will be poor near and downwind of active fires. There will be some improvement beginning today (Sunday), as a S-SE flow is forecast to bring in moist unstable air. Smoke dispersion conditions will improve a bit each day beginning Tuesday through Thursday, as the moist unstable air is forecast to move over northern CA.

In addition to smoke from inland fires, the smoke from the Chetco Bar Fire in southern Oregon continues to heavily affect communities south of the border from Smith River, Crescent City, Klamath, and south along the immediate coast.

In Humboldt County: An Air Quality Advisory has been issued for the communities in the Klamath River Drainage (Orleans and Weitchpec) as they are forecast to be in the *Very Unhealthy* range with periods of *Hazardous* conditions; and smoke levels in the communities of Hoopa, Willow Creek, and Salyer are forecast to be *Very Unhealthy* with periods of *Hazardous* conditions. Although the Humboldt Bay Air Basin (from Trinidad to Scotia) did see some higher smoke levels overnight (*Very Unhealthy*), the forecast beginning today is for slight improvement where levels should be primarily in the *Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups* to the *Unhealthy* range. Garberville and areas in southern Humboldt continue to be forecast in the *Moderate* range.

In Del Norte County: An Air Quality Advisory has been issued for Smith River and surrounding areas as they are forecast to be in the *Very Unhealthy* to *Hazardous* range; Crescent City to Klamath the smoke is forecast to be in the *Unhealthy* to *Very Unhealthy* range with periods of *Hazardous* conditions in Klamath; and inland areas east of Crescent City (Gasquet) can expect *Unhealthy* with periods of *Very Unhealthy* conditions.

In Trinity County: An Air Quality Advisory has been issued for Weaverville and areas adjacent (Lewiston, Junction City, Big Bar, Del Loma) are forecast to be in the *Unhealthy* to *Very Unhealthy* range with periods of *Hazardous* conditions, primarily due to the Helena Fire; Air quality for areas outside of the Weaverville area can expect smoke levels of *Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups* with periods of *Unhealthy* depending on proximity to the wildfires.

Clean Air Shelters in Humboldt County:

Weitchpec Tribal Office, Highway 96, Weitchpec. Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hoopa Neighborhood Facility, Hoopa Tribal Office, Highway 96, Hoopa, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., M-F and this Holiday Weekend.

Clean Air Shelters in Trinity County:

Veterans Memorial Hall, 101 Memorial Dr, Weaverville. Hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

American Red Cross Evacuation Shelter, First Baptist Church, 1261 Main St., Weaverville.

Hayfork Community Center, 154 Tule Creek Road, Hayfork. Hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Particulate Matter (PM2.5) monitors are presently in Smith River, Crescent City, Klamath, Gasquet, Orleans, Weitchpec, Hoopa, Willow Creek, Weaverville, Eureka, Scotia, and Garberville.

Subsequent Wildfire Smoke Public Service Announcements will be issued as conditions change. Fire information can be found at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> or at www.calfire.ca.gov. Current weather information can be found at www.wrh.noaa.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**

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