



**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

Preparing for the Wildfire Season

The North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD), and the Humboldt, Trinity and Del Norte County Departments of Health and Human Services Public Health Branches would like to help you prepare in the event of wildfires. If a wildfire breaks out in your area, please be aware of the following information.

Air Quality Alerts are the most serious issued by the NCUAQMD. Alerts indicate when the air in an area becomes Hazardous. If you live in or plan to travel in an area that may be affected by wildfire smoke, check for alerts by calling 1-866-BURN-DAY (1-866-287-6329). Air Quality Alerts and information about how smoke affects you and your family can also be found at www.ncuaqmd.org.

Air Quality Advisories are issued when an area is forecast to be impacted by a substantial smoke event and becomes Unhealthy. The impact of smoke in the area is not expected to reach the Hazardous level.

Public Service Announcements are issued to provide information about possible air quality affects from Wildfires. Public Service announcements are intended to provide general information about the smoke event. Sensitive populations may be affected by smoke at this level. The impact of smoke in the area is not expected to reach Unhealthy or Hazardous levels.

If you have health concerns, are elderly, pregnant, or have a child in your care, consider talking with your doctor now about what to do if the air becomes smoky. With the continued drought conditions 2015 is expected to be an active Wildfire season.

Concentrations of smoke will vary depending upon location, weather, and distance to 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.

If you are in a wildfire prone area, consider buying an air purifier now to use in the event of smoky air. Some air cleaners can help reduce indoor pollutants if they are the right type and size for your home. Go to www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/residair.html for more information about air cleaners or air purifiers.

For more information call the NCUAQMD at (707) 443-3093, the Humboldt County Public Health Department at (707) 445-6200, the Trinity County Public Health Department at (530) 623-1265, or the Del Norte Public Health Department at (707) 464-3191.