



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>

Issued July 30, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wildfire Smoke Public Service Announcement

Fire activity continues to keep fire departments active in all areas of California. Continued dry, hot, windy conditions on Thursday and through the weekend will keep fire danger high in dense vegetation and rugged terrain.

Residents of Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity Counties may see some smoke associated with wildfires. The amount of smoke in your area will be dependent on weather and fire activity.

Fires of interest: CALFIRE

Rocky Fire – Lower Lake (Lake County). Size 8,000 acres. Fire is traveling at a rapid rate of spread with forward spotting. Terrain is rugged in heavy brush and timberland. Access is difficult. Additional resources have been ordered. Fire Information – 707-967-1456

Buck Fire – Garberville (Humboldt County). Size 16 acres & 85% contained.

Queen Fire – Pecwan (Humboldt County). Size 158 acres & 75% contained.

Wragg Fire – Lake Berryessa (Napa & Sonoma County). Size 7,500 acres & 80% contained.

Due to triple digit temperatures and single digit relative humidity this fire continues to have the potential to expand. Fire Information – 707-999-3016.

China Fire – Redding (Shasta County). Size 150 acres & 60% contained. Progress continues. Weather continues to be hot and dry with very low moisture recovery at night. Fire Information – 530-225-2510.

Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity Counties contain mountains, valleys, and a thousand different air flow patterns which makes precise forecasting of smoke impacts challenging as smoke can vary widely within just a few miles. Air Quality information will be provided to the public as updated information becomes available.

For 24-hour Air Quality 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.



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**

