



NORTH COAST UNIFIED AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Wildfire Smoke Public Service Announcement



Recent dry lightning strikes have caused numerous small fires in the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forest as well as State Responsibility Areas. Residents in Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity Counties may see some smoke associated with wildfires. The amount of smoke in your area will depend on weather and fire activity.



The recent offshore flow over the evening was evidenced by considerable ashfall in many coastal communities. However, the NWS has indicated that an offshore flow is not expected today. As a result smoke should not impact the Northwest coast as strongly. However they indicate that with numerous fires already burning, the south and west winds will likely keep the interior regions plagued with smoke and ashfall. The NWS anticipates that conditions will gradually improve through the week while temperatures cool.



Over the past 48 hours, the Shasta-Trinity National Forest has received over 440 lightning strikes resulting in 60 fires. Lightning strikes yesterday on the Six Rivers National Forest resulted in numerous fires across the Mad River and Lower Trinity Ranger Districts. There are over 25 confirmed fires on the forest, with the largest of these being the Pickett Peak area of the Mad River Ranger District.

The following are the major fires of interest:



**Pickett/Gobler Fire** – Ruth Lake area (Humboldt County)  
**Rail Fire** – Rail Canyon off Hwy 3 south of Hayfork (Trinity County)  
**River Complex fires** – near Denny (Trinity County)  
**Fork Complex fires** – near Hyampom, Hayfork (Trinity County)  
**Barker Fire** – north of Hwy 3, northeast of Hayfork (Trinity County)  
**Rocky Fire** - Lower lake (Lake County)



Impacts from the **Queen Fire** (near Pecwan) and the **Buck Fire** (near Garberville) in Humboldt County are subsiding as they are being contained. Further 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](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)**

