



PRESCRIBED FIRE SMOKE INFORMATION

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

October 10, 2018

Air Quality Public Service Announcement

Good weather conditions and reduced fire danger have opened potential windows for prescribed burn projects by local government agencies, tribes, and burn cooperative groups. These prescribed burns are possible because these groups have the manpower and equipment necessary to burn safely. The current burn suspension for burning by permit holders will remain until lifted by CALFIRE. These prescribed fire projects are subject to a special permit (where required) by CALFIRE and must have sufficient fire equipment and personnel to conduct the burn under specific conditions. There are multiple large projects in Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity counties which will be conducted over the next week. Public notification for these projects is a required component for burning. The prescribed burn projects projected for the coming week are as follows:

- Redwood National Park in the Bald Hills area
- USFS in the Orleans, Gasquet and Mad River areas
- CALFIRE in the area southeast of Kneeland and near Weott
- BLM in the Lacks Creek area east of Hoopa tribal boundary
- Mid-Klamath Watershed Council in Orleans and Siskiyou counties
- Cultural Fire Management Council/Yurok Tribe in Weitchpec
- Watershed Research Training Center in Weaverville and Hayfork

Humboldt & Del Norte County

The majority of coastal areas of Humboldt and Del Norte County should see no impacts from these prescribed burn projects and are expected to have “Good” air quality depending on conditions and proximity. Smoke impacts in inland areas adjacent to the burns are forecast to be “Moderate” with possible periods of “USG” or even brief periods of “Unhealthy” depending on conditions and fire proximity.

- Orleans – beginning Wednesday, expect “Moderate” to “USG”, with possible brief periods of “Unhealthy” beginning in the late afternoon and overnight depending on proximity to prescribed burn projects.
- Gasquet – beginning Thursday, expect “Good” to “Moderate” with brief periods of “USG” depending on conditions.

Trinity County

The Weaverville basin and Hayfork should see only localized impacts from prescribed burn projects depending on conditions and project size. During the burns air quality is expected to be “Good” to “Moderate” with periods of “USG” in the immediate proximity to the burn projects. Public notification is required by the entity prior to and during ignition.

Air Quality Index (AQI Value)	PM 2.5 24hr avg (ug/m ³)	Actions to Protect Yourself
Good (0-50)	0-12	None
Moderate (51-100)	12-35	Sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups [USG] (101-150)	35-55	People within USG should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion
Unhealthy (151-200)	55-150	People within USG should avoid all prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion
Very Unhealthy (201-300)	150-250	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion
Hazardous (>300)	250-500	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity

Particulate Matter (PM2.5) monitors are presently in Crescent City, Gasquet, Klamath, Weitchpec, Orleans, Hoopa, Willow Creek, Eureka, and Weaverville. Updates will be provided as conditions change. For 24-hour Air Quality Advisory Information, call toll-free at 1-866-BURN-DAY (1-866-287-6329).

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.

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