



AIR QUALITY SMOKE ADVISORY

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

Press release issued: July 24, 2024

Advisory updated as conditions change

Smoke from wildfires in Oregon and the Hill Fire in eastern Humboldt County has resulted in hazy skies and some areas of poorer air quality inland. Smoke from the Hill Fire will impact communities closest to the fire with clearing later in the day. Throughout the day winds will shift and push more of the smoke to the east then south. A shift to cooler weather and west winds are expected beginning Thursday, improving air quality near the coast and driving smoke impacts more toward inland areas. The Shelly Fire, Klamath National Forest in Siskiyou County, has moderated with minimal localized smoke depending on proximity and activity.

Air quality monitors and the current Air Quality Index (AQI) for communities should be viewed at <https://fire.airnow.gov>. USFS Air Resource Advisors (ARAs) have been assigned to the Shelly and the Hill fires that are impacting our area (<https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook>).

ALERT – Hazardous (AQI 301 and higher, 24 hr. avg):

None

ADVISORY – Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy (AQI 151-300 range, 24 hr. avg):

None

Regional Smoke Outlooks – Good, Moderate, to Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (AQI 0-150 range):

Humboldt County:

- Eureka area (including Scotia to Trinidad) – Good to Moderate conditions, with periods of haze
- Willow Creek – Moderate, with periods of Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG)
- Orleans – Moderate
- Weitchpec – Moderate
- Hoopa – Moderate with periods of USG
- Bridgeville, Dinsmore – Moderate, with periods of USG
- Garberville – Good, with periods of haze

Del Norte County:

- Crescent City – Good conditions, with periods of haze
- Gasquet – Good conditions, with periods of haze

Trinity County:

- Weaverville area – Overall Moderate, with periods of smoke
- Trinity Center – Overall Moderate, with periods of smoke
- Hayfork – Overall Moderate, with periods of smoke
- Hyampom – Overall Moderate, with periods USG
- Mad River, Ruth – Overall Moderate, with periods of smoke

U.S. EPA AIR QUALITY INDEX (<https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>)

| Notice | Level of Concern | AQI Value | Actions to Protect Yourself |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| | Good | 0 - 50 | None, air quality is satisfactory and poses little or no risk |
| | Moderate | 51 - 100 | Sensitive individuals should limit prolonged or heavy exertion |
| | Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG) | 101 - 150 | People within USG should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion |
| Advisory | Unhealthy (UH) | 151 - 200 | People within USG should avoid all prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion |
| | Very Unhealthy (VUH) | 201 - 300 | Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion |
| Alert | Hazardous (HAZ) | > 301 | Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity |

Air quality monitors and the current Air Quality Index (AQI) for communities should be viewed at <https://fire.airnow.gov>. Particulate Matter (PM2.5) monitors have been deployed in Eureka, Crescent City, Gasquet, Hoopa, Klamath, Orleans, Willow Creek, Hayfork, and Weaverville.

Clean Air Centers provide a safe place to go during periods of intense wildfire smoke or poor air quality. For information about available Clean Air Centers go to: CARB's CA Clean Air Centers (<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/cleanaircenters>).

Fire information can be found at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> or <https://fire.airnow.gov/> or app.watchduty.org. As with all wildfires, ash fallout is possible. Ash fallout information can be found in the Wildfire Smoke Resources section of our webpage at www.ncuaqmd.org.

USFS Air Resource Advisors (ARAs) are assigned to certain fires impacting our area and are providing daily Smoke Outlook Forecasts on one or more of the fires (<https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook>).

Health Information & Actions to Protect Yourself from 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.

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.

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 information on the steps, you can take to keep your family safe before and during wildfire season: CARB's Smoke Ready CA (<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/smokereadyca>).

For further information, visit the District's website at www.ncuaqmd.org or call the District's Wildfire Response Coordinator at (707) 443-3093 x122.

**NORTH COAST UNIFIED
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**
707 L Street, Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 443-3093
www.ncuaqmd.org

