



AIR QUALITY SMOKE ADVISORY

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

Press release issued: October 1, 2021
Advisory updated as conditions change

The Monument Fire, River Complex, and McCash fires remain minimally active. Current morning conditions show all monitors in the forecast area registering good air quality, which should continue into tomorrow. USFS Air Resource Advisors indicate that conditions and fire behavior will be similar to yesterday. Expect continued warm, dry weather with light winds over the forecast area. The current drying trend will continue to make fuels more susceptible to burning.

Air quality monitors and the current Air Quality Index (AQI) for communities should be viewed at <https://fire.airnow.gov>. USFS Air Resource Advisors (ARA) assigned to the Monument/McFarland and River Complex fires provide daily ARA Smoke Outlook Forecasts at <https://wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlooks>.

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

- None

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

- None

Regional Smoke Outlooks – Good, Moderate, to USG Conditions (AQI 0-150 range, 24 hr. avg):

Humboldt County:

- Eureka (including Scotia to Trinidad) – Good today and tomorrow
- Orleans – Good today and tomorrow
- Weitchpec – Good today and tomorrow
- Hoopa Valley – Good today and tomorrow
- Willow Creek – Good today and tomorrow
- Garberville & Redway – Good expected today through tomorrow

Del Norte County:

- Crescent City – Good today and tomorrow
- Smith River – Good today and tomorrow
- Gasquet – Good today and tomorrow
- Klamath – Good today and tomorrow

Trinity County:

- Weaverville and Lewiston – Good today and tomorrow.
- Junction City – Good today through tomorrow
- Trinity Center – Good overall, with periods of Moderate later in the day
- Hayfork & Douglas City – Good today through tomorrow

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

Smoke Impact Summary

The USFS Air Resource Advisor on the **McCash Fire** indicates that current morning conditions show all monitors in the forecast area registering good air quality. Terrain-driven smoke coupled with light winds from the north-northwest will move any smoke south and southeast throughout the day. Expect all surrounding communities to be in the good AQI all day with any early morning settled smoke lifting around 11 AM. Temperatures will continue to increase through the weekend creating conditions for possible increased fire activity and smoke production.

The USFS Air Resource Advisor on the **Monument Fire** indicates that overall, surface air quality should remain good today. Winds will be generally out of the NW. Topography will be more of a factor in wind direction today. A local air sensor is reporting moderate air quality this morning near Burnt Ranch in the Monument fire; however, all other air sensors in the area are still observing good air quality. Any inversions should lift around noon ventilating last night's smoke haze. The USFS Air Resource Advisor on the **River Complex** indicates that today and tomorrow will have poor smoke dispersion conditions with light winds and lower mixing. Overall, Good to Moderate conditions are expected on Friday and Saturday.

In Trinity County, High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) Filters have been placed at the following locations:

- Trinity County Library, 351 Main St., Weaverville; Mon/Wed/Fri 1pm - 6pm, Tues/Thurs 10am - 6pm

In Humboldt County, the Yurok Tribe Cleaner Air Shelter is available in the Weitchpec area. Individuals will be required to do COVID screening prior to entry.

- Morek Won Facility, 390 McKinnon Hill Road, Weitchpec, CA 95546 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10am to 3pm

Particulate Matter (PM2.5) monitors are located in Crescent City, Weitchpec, Hoopa, Willow Creek, Weaverville, Hayfork, Eureka, and Garberville. **Air quality monitors and the current Air Quality Index (AQI) for communities should be viewed at <https://fire.airnow.gov>**

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

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