



AIR QUALITY SMOKE ADVISORY

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

Press release issued: September 4, 2021

Advisory updated as conditions substantially change

The Knob Fire, Monument Fire, McFarland Fire, River Complex, and McCash fires continue to impact the region with smoke. USFS Air Resource Advisors on the fires indicate that a cap of smoke and high elevation inversion continues to prevent smoke from dispersing from the area. Communities near active fires will continue to experience Hazardous to Unhealthy conditions today. Areas to the east and south of the wildfires will see improved air quality this afternoon as SW winds serve to scour and disperse lingering smoke. This pattern continues overnight and into tomorrow as the high pressure system continues to dominate the forecast area. Anticipate similar conditions Sunday.

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):

- Trinity Center/Coffee Creek – Very Unhealthy with Hazardous periods; limited improvement overnight

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

- Orleans – Very Unhealthy with Hazardous periods this afternoon; possible improvement overnight
- Weitchpec – Very Unhealthy with Hazardous periods this afternoon; possible improvement overnight
- Hoopa – Very Unhealthy with Hazardous periods; possible improvement late in the day
- Willow Creek – Very Unhealthy with Hazardous periods; possible improvement late in the day
- Weaverville – Overall Unhealthy conditions
- Lewiston – Overall Unhealthy conditions
- Douglas City – Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy
- Hayfork – Overall Very Unhealthy conditions

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

Humboldt County: (see above Advisory)

- Eureka (including Scotia to Trinidad) – Good to Moderate, widespread haze; conditions worse at higher elevations
- Garberville & Redway – Unhealthy conditions in morning; improvement in afternoon to USG or better conditions

Del Norte County:

- Crescent City – Good to Moderate, widespread haze
- Gasquet – Moderate with periods of USG or higher
- Klamath – Good to Moderate, with possible periods of USG or higher

Trinity County: (see above Advisory and Alerts)

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

Action	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 Knob Fire, Monument, and McFarland Fires indicates that a cap of smoke and high elevation inversion continues to prevent smoke from dispersing from the area. Smoke generated by smoldering fire behavior overnight has pooled in the drainages near wildfires. Communities near active fires will continue to experience Hazardous to Unhealthy conditions today. Areas to the east and south of the wildfires will see improved air quality this afternoon as SW winds serve to scour and disperse lingering smoke. This pattern continues overnight and into tomorrow as the high pressure system continues to dominate the forecast area. Anticipate similar conditions Sunday.

The USFS Air Resource Advisor on the River Complex and McCash Fires indicates that smoke inversions will continue to produce very unhealthy to hazardous levels near the fire areas, especially in the afternoons. Light SW winds will likely again push that heavy smoke into the Scott and Shasta Valleys, creating generally unhealthy air quality throughout the rest of the forecast area today and tomorrow.

If you are in areas that continue to be Unhealthy to Hazardous air quality, it is really important to take health and safety precautions. Take actions to limit outdoor activity and smoke exposure. Learn how to protect yourself from wildfire smoke. Visit the Wildfire Smoke Resources section of our webpage at www.ncuaqmd.org.

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

- Trinity County Library, 351 Main St., Weaverville
Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 1:00pm - 6:00pm; Tuesday/Thursday 10:00am - 6:00 pm

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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