



**NORTH COAST UNIFIED AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Wildfire Smoke Public Service Announcement

Smoke, haze, and degraded air quality conditions continue throughout Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity Counties due to the numerous fires in the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forest as well as State Responsibility Areas.



Air quality monitors will begin to reflect the hazy conditions expected from the offshore flow and increased temperatures. Current monitor results show particulate matter concentrations in the good to moderate range in the greater Humboldt Bay and Eureka area. The Eel and Klamath River drainages will see smoke and haze periodically throughout the day. The Trinity and Mad River drainages have remained in the *Unhealthy* range. A Hazardous Conditions Alert and *Unhealthy* Advisory has been issued for the inland communities near the fires (see www.ncuaqmd.org).



Coastal residents should see cloudy conditions today becoming clear and hazy in the afternoon. The high pressure system has brought reduced wind, vertical mixing, and increased temperatures. Inland areas will see overnight and early morning inversions. Smoke will continue to settle around the fires and in nearby drainages during the evening and through the morning hours. Settling is expected in the Klamath, South Fork and Trinity River drainages.



These are the main fires of interest that are generating smoke:

- Mad River Complex** (Humboldt/Trinity County)
- Humboldt Complex** (Humboldt County)
- Route Complex** (Humboldt County)
- Nickowitz Fire** (Humboldt County)
- Gasquet Complex** (Del Norte County)
- South Complex** (Hyampom (Trinity County))
- River Complex** (Trinity County)
- Fork Complex** (Trinity County)
- Rocky Fire** – Lower Lake (Lake County)



* Fire Information at www.inciweb.nwcg.gov

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**

