



**NORTH COAST UNIFIED AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**
707 L Street, Eureka, CA 95501
Telephone (707) 443-3093 FAX (707) 443-3099
<http://www.ncuaqmd.org>

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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.



Despite observable haze, current monitor results show particulate matter concentrations in the Good to Moderate range in the greater Humboldt Bay and Eureka area. However, on Sunday, based on 24-hour averages, air quality near the fires deteriorated: Hyampom reported *Hazardous* conditions; Hayfork reported *Very Unhealthy* conditions; Weaverville, Burnt Ranch, Mad River, and Dinsmore reported *Unhealthy* conditions; and Willow Creek, Hoopa, and Orleans had periods of high smoke concentrations. Both an *Unhealthy Advisory* and *Hazardous Alert* have been issued for several communities near the fires (see www.ncuaqmd.org).



Today will be similar to yesterday, as smoke dispersion will be limited due to weak transport wind over the area. Smoke is expected to settle in the Trinity River drainage, South Fork Trinity River drainage, and Klamath River drainage. It is anticipated that in areas such as Hayfork and Hyampom in Trinity County may again experience a few hours of very high smoke concentrations.



Diminished smoke dispersion is expected until Wednesday. Transport winds are expected to increase slightly on Wednesday, which should help with smoke dispersion.

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



Fire Information can be found at www.inciweb.nwccg.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.ncuagmd.org**

