

Rim Fire, Stanislaus National Forest

Yesterday, September 6, 2013

The [Rim Fire](#) burned approximately 1,200 acres, mostly within the containment lines. It is currently 247,569 acres. A strong inversion brought smoke down the Clavey and Tuolumne River drainages, into the Lake Don Pedro basin and the central valley. It was noon in most areas before smoke trapped by the inversion had cleared. Transport winds were southwesterly so, the main smoke plume continued to travel northeast toward the communities of Pinecrest, Bear Valley, Markleeville, and the Lake Tahoe Basin. Northwest winds east of the Sierra crest kept all but light smoke out of Minden and Carson City into the evening. The Yosemite and San Joaquin Valleys were not impacted by smoke from the Rim Fire.

Saturday, September 7, 2013

The fire burned actively in the thermal belt through the night. The heaviest morning smoke impacts were in communities to the northeast and in the immediate fire area such as Pinecrest, Bear Valley, Markleeville, and Minden. Morning smoke was heavier than yesterday in Tuolumne City, Sonora, and Columbia. This morning's inversion should break around noon. All areas should see their best air quality in the afternoon. Daytime transport winds will be southwesterly to west-southwesterly, likely bringing smoke into the Tuolumne Meadows area, and closer to the Yosemite Valley. El Portal and the San Joaquin Valley should not be impacted. Nighttime impacts similar to yesterday are likely for Minden and possibly further south in Bridgeport, continuing into Sunday morning.

Sunday, September 8, 2013

Transport winds begin to weaken some and become more westerly and possibly even northwesterly for a time late in the day. The morning inversion is still forecast to be quite strong, and likely to persist until around noon. Morning smoke impacts in communities within the immediate fire area and south and west of the fire in Mariposa, La Grange, Greeley Hill, Columbia, and Sonora are likely. Pinecrest, Bear Valley, and Markleeville will still see the heaviest morning impacts. All areas should clear for a few hours in the afternoon. By late afternoon and into evening the Yosemite Valley and San Joaquin Valley will likely see significant smoke impacts that will persist into the following morning.

Long term Outlook

Monday morning smoke impacts are predicted to extend as far south as Fresno and north to Sacramento. Daytime transport winds are forecast to become light. Surface winds in the Sierras should become westerly and clear some of the smoke from drainages and valleys by late afternoon, but widespread smoke is predicted to linger over much of the region.

Follow the links in the following table to view real-time air quality monitoring data for each site.

Site	24-hour Avg PM2.5 (µg/m³)	3-hour Max PM2.5 (µg/m³)	Level of Health Concern	Meaning	Actions to Protect Yourself	Forecast For Sat. Sept. 7, 2013
	Yesterday, Sept. 6, 2013					
La Grange*	13	22-14:00	Good	Air quality is satisfactory and poses little or no health risk	None	Mariposa Greeley Hill El Portal Reno
Mariposa	10	26-10:00				
Greeley Hill	11	39-11:00				
El Portal	7	10-20:00				
Reno	8	24-22:00				
Yosemite Vly	16	36-00:00	Moderate	Air quality is acceptable for most. There may be moderate health concern for a small number of sensitive people.	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.	Yosemite Vly. S. Lk. Tahoe Columbia Carson City Groveland Tuol. Mdws La Grange
S. Lk. Tahoe	14	30-14:00				
Columbia	23	87-11:00				
Carson City	16	27-19:00				
Groveland	31	141-08:00				
Tuol. Mdws	16	60-21:00				
Tuol. City	45	179-10:00	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.	People with heart or lung disease, children and older adults should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion. Everyone else should limit prolonged or heavy exertion.	Tuol. City Minden
Minden	53	87-21:00				
Bear Valley	85	174-02:00	Unhealthy	Everyone may begin to experience more serious health effects.	The following groups should avoid all physical outdoor activity: People with heart or lung disease, children and older adults. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.	Bear Valley Markleeville Pinecrest Drew Mdw ICP
Markleeville.	82	176-02:00				
Pinecrest	107	292-11:00				
Drew Mdw ICP*	179	284-08:00				

Air Quality Index (AQI) ratings are derived based on the recommendations found in [Wildfire Smoke: A Guide for Public Health Officials](#).

* Estimated based on partial or missing data.

For more information visit:

California Smoke Information Blog: <http://northcasmoke.blogspot.com/>

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District: <http://www.valleyair.org/Home.htm>

Mariposa County Air Quality: <http://www.mariposacounty.org/index.aspx?NID=1356>

Tuolumne County APCD: <http://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/airpollution.html>

