



Smoke Outlook for 10/02 - 10/03

Central Colorado Decker Fire

Issued at: 2019-10-02 07:55 MDT

Special Statement

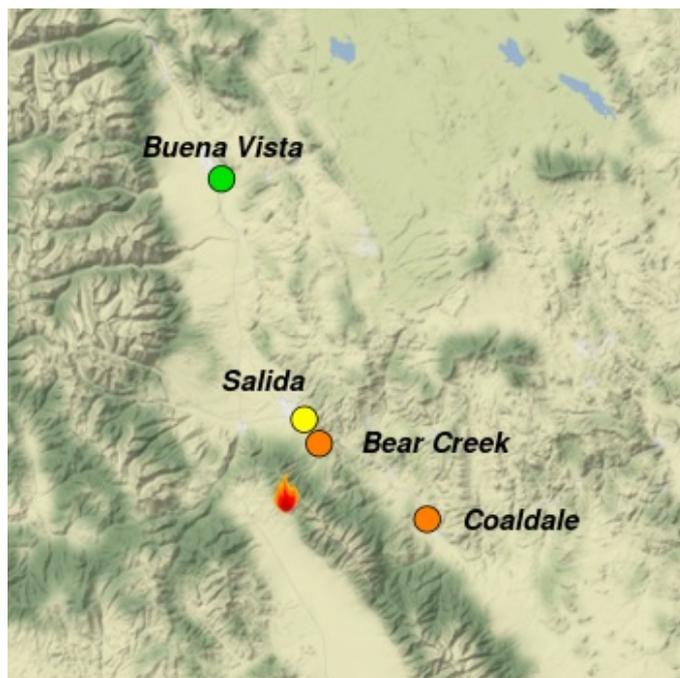
The incident meteorologist forecasts critical fire weather conditions for today, with Red Flag conditions between 11 AM and 7 PM. Tomorrow is forecast to have near-critical fire weather conditions.

Fire

Significant fire growth occurred yesterday and overnight due to the fire weather conditions, with the fire total area currently 3,746 acres. Multiple days of dry conditions are causing fuels to be more available to the fire and gusty winds support the movement of fire across the terrain. Today, the continued weather conditions will favor further high fire activity; the fire activity and area growth will depend upon how the winds align with the terrain throughout the area.

Smoke

The fire area growth overnight increased morning concentrations of smoke in the areas north of the fire. Starting at 9 AM, winds will shift to come from the WSW, transporting smoke eastward along the Arkansas River and US-50 corridor. Smoke is expected in communities from late-morning to evening in Fremont County, south areas of Park County, and south areas of Teller County. Drift smoke may be experienced further east beyond the Front Range. Overnight, the winds will shift to transport smoke to areas north of the fire, including the Salida and Poncha Springs areas; drift smoke may reach areas between Wellsville and Coaldale. Air Quality Index values are expected to range between Moderate to Unhealthy levels during smoke episodes, fluctuating based on wind conditions and fire activity. Tomorrow, winds from the south are expected to transport to the Salida and Poncha Springs areas, with poor dispersion and continued smoke production causing Unhealthy air quality.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Oct 02, 2019

| Station | Yesterday | Tue | Forecast* | Wed | Thu |
|-------------|-----------|-------|--|----------------------------------|-------|
| | hourly | 10/01 | | Comment for Today -- Wed, Oct 02 | 10/02 |
| Salida | | | Unhealthy until 9 am today, then lower until the evening. Tonight and tomorrow, levels will fluctuate and likely reach Unhealthy levels. | | |
| Bear Creek | | | Unhealthy until 9 am today, with continued smoke episodes expected during the day and tomorrow. | | |
| Coaldale | | | Smoke episodes are expected to occur throughout the day, with conditions improving tomorrow. | | |
| Buena Vista | | | Smoke is not expected to be observed today, with drift smoke potentially experienced tomorrow. | | |

Issued 2019-10-02 07:55 MDT by Gayle Hagler (ghaglerara@gmail.com)

| Air Quality Index (AQI) | Actions to Protect Yourself |
|-------------------------|---|
| Good | None |
| Moderate | Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion. |
| USG | People within Sensitive Groups* should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion. |
| Unhealthy | People within Sensitive Groups* should avoid all physical outdoor activity. |
| Very Unhealthy | Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. |
| Hazardous | Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity. |

***Disclaimer:** This forecast is based on fine particulates only; ozone is not included. Forecasts may be wrong; use at own risk. Use caution as conditions can change quickly. See your health professional as needed. Smoke sensitive groups should take appropriate precautions.

Additional Links

Colorado Air Quality Outlook -- <http://bit.ly/COAirQualityOutlook>

Near Real-time Decker Fire Smoke Data -- <http://bit.ly/DeckerFireSmokeInfo> (case sensitive)

Protect Yourself from Wildfire Smoke -- <http://bit.ly/Smoke-ProtectYourself>



Issued by USFS Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program -- www.wildlandfiresmoke.net

Central Colorado Updates -- tools.airfire.org/outlooks/CentralColorado

*Smoke and Health Info -- www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=smoke.index