

Air Quality Summary Report – Wildfires in Western NC

Friday, Nov 18, 2016

Joint Information Center: 828.575.2840



Monitoring: Smoke monitoring is occurring at many locations in Western NC: Murphy, Robbinsville, Andrews, Franklin, Bryson City, Spruce Pine and Asheville. Several fires are currently burning in the Western NC and North Georgia area and smoke levels recorded by these instruments may not be from a single fire incident.

Yesterday: All the areas monitored yesterday in Western NC saw smoke levels in the Good (Green) range for the past 16 hours.

Friday: Currently this morning, levels of fine particulate matter in Robbinsville, Andrews, Franklin, Spruce Pine, Asheville and Bryson City are in the Good (Green) to Moderate (Yellow) AQI level as of 0800. Today, several of these communities may see these concentration levels increase to the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG) range (Orange). The State of NC has issued a code Red (Unhealthy) for Western North Carolina counties today.

Saturday: With the existing weather pattern and fire behavior, the listed below should see Good air quality Saturday.

Site	AQI Nov 18th Friday	AQI Nov 19h Saturday	Comments
Robbinsville	Mod	Good	NC Division of Air Quality has issued a code red for western NC. However, decreased fire activity is predicted and it is anticipated that air quality conditions will not deteriorate to that level. Air quality is predicted to be in the Moderate to Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups ranges today. Communities near and immediately downwind of the fires could see localized higher concentrations.
Andrews	Mod	Good	
Franklin	USG	Good	
Asheville	Mod	Good	
Bryson City	USG	Good	
Spruce Pine	Mod	Good	
Hendersonville	USG	Good	
Waynesville	Mod	Good	Tomorrow, conditions are expected to be good throughout the area.

Disclaimer: Conditions may change quickly; these predictions are based on anticipated weather and fire activity. AQI estimates for sites do not represent a full 24 hour time period but, rather, reflect a period of time within the day where smoke impacts would be greatest.

Air Quality Index (AQI) Levels of Health Concern	What the Index means for your health with regards to particulates from smoke
Good	None
Moderate (Mod)	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG)	Although general public is not likely to be affected at this AQI range, older adults and children are at greater risk from the presence of particles in the air.
Unhealthy	Everyone may begin to experience some adverse health effects, and members of the sensitive groups may experience more serious effects.
Very Unhealthy	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.
Hazardous	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.

For more information about North Carolina air quality updates: <https://xapps.ncdenr.org/aq/ForecastCenter>

For more information about National Forests in North Carolina: <https://www.facebook.com/nfsnc/>

For more specific information about wildfires in National Forests in North Carolina:

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