

Southwest Oregon Wildfire Air Quality Summary Report
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Thursday, August 15, 2013

Air quality levels in much of SW Oregon continued a slow degradation yesterday, although all reporting stations still maintained levels in the Good to Moderate range. Hard hit locations without monitoring stations were the South Umpqua River Valley (westward from the Whiskey Fire toward Canyonville) and Rogue River valleys near the active burn locations, as well as a number of other smaller river valleys in Douglas County north of the Whiskey Complex. Many of these valleys are not clearing out until early afternoon. The Klamath Basin and Crater Lake areas began to see smoke settling in from the northern California fires as previously forecast. Ashland was hit with a slug of smoke in the mid-afternoon which cleared up quickly by the evening hours.

Average concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) from yesterday, August 14 (midnight-midnight) are shown below with the corresponding level of health concern.

Values from Thursday, August 14, 2013

Site	24-hour PM2.5 (µg/m ³)	1-hour Max PM2.5	Level of Health Concern	Meaning	Actions to Protect Yourself
Cave Jctn	9	12	Good	Air quality is satisfactory and poses little or no health risk	None
Merlin	9	22			
Grants Pass	11	17			
Roseburg	11	26			
Chiloquin	11	29			
Provolt	15	24	Moderate	Air quality is acceptable for most. There may be a moderate health concern for a small number of people.	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.
Medford	20	31			
Ashland	22	57			
Shady Cove	25	50			
Klamath Falls	27	49			
Glendale	27	54			
Crater Lake	34	57			
			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 adults should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion. Everyone else, should limit prolonged or heavy exertion.
			Unhealthy		
			Very Unhealthy		
			Hazardous		

Air Quality Forecast: More burnouts are scheduled for the next two afternoons at each of the SW Oregon fire complexes (Big Windy, Douglas, and Whiskey). During these periods, more smoke plumes will be visible in the area and air quality is expected to degrade over the next couple of days. River valleys near the fires will continue to see the worst impacts. Again, low level smoke is expected to drift south while the upper smoke plumes move smoke north to northeastward. Smoke from California continues to move north-northeastward aloft, and may drop into the Klamath Basin and the southern Bear Creek Valley (Medford and Ashland) Thursday evening with PM2.5 levels into the Moderate to possibly Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups categories. For more information visit www.oregonsmoke.blogspot.com

For hourly information on air quality conditions in Oregon visit <http://www.deq.state.or.us/aqi/index.aspx>