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Friday, August 16, 2013

Thursday's air quality levels at the SW Oregon monitoring locations remained in the Good to Moderate categories with the exception of Crater Lake (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups) which due to its 7,000- foot elevation was directly impacted by the smoke from the California fires. High humidities from an onshore push of marine air this morning mixed with some smoke in and around some of the river valleys close to the fires.

Average concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) from yesterday, August 15 (midnight-midnight) are shown below with the corresponding level of health concern.

Values from Friday, August 15, 2013

Site	24-hour PM2.5 (µg/m ³)	1-hour Max PM2.5	Level of Health Concern	Meaning	Actions to Protect Yourself
Merlin	5	13	Good	Air quality is satisfactory and poses little or no health risk	None
Cave Jctn	8	11			
Grants Pass	8	14			
Ashland	8	23			
Provolt	10	21			
Roseburg	11	36			
Medford	13	26	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.
Chiloquin	18	47			
Glendale	22	93			
Klamath Falls	27	43			
Shady Cove	32	75			
Crater Lake	37	61	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 one else, should limit prolonged or heavy exertion.
			Unhealthy		
			Very Unhealthy		
			Hazardous		

Air Quality Forecast: More burnouts are scheduled as conditions allow 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, primarily in areas closest to the fires and downstream river valleys. Smoke from California will continue to move north-northeastward for at least one more day and will be visible from much of SW Oregon. Elevated areas (e.g. Klamath Falls and Crater Lake) may see higher values tonight once again, but no readings in the Unhealthy category are expected. Transport winds are expected to become more westerly over the weekend, which should limit further smoke intrusions from California.

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>