



Hoopa Valley Tribal Council

Office of Emergency Services

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Hoopa Public Health Threat 2015

Public Service Announcement

AUGUST 25, 2015

Air quality conditions were good until about noon today, August 25, when particulate matter levels rose to the **UNHEALTHY** level on the Air Quality Index. **There is a Fire Information Meeting for the Community on Wednesday, August 26 at 6 p.m. at the Hoopa Fire Department.**

The Hoopa Valley Tribe reminded all department managers and supervisors to monitor their employees work environment and activities on a daily basis, and to schedule workers for indoor activities during periods of heavy smoke. If outdoor work is essential, they were asked to ensure appropriate safety equipment is provided and worn and that employees stay hydrated.

The Klamath-Trinity Unified School District (KTJUSD) will be holding school as scheduled. Each classroom is equipped with a HEPA Air filter and outdoor activities will be held to a minimum during periods of heavy smoke. The school has also taken steps to reduce the amount of time children wait to load buses to minimize smoke exposure.

Air quality conditions will vary based on weather patterns and fire behavior throughout the remainder of the fire season. Several lightning fire complexes are burning in Humboldt and Trinity Counties, the closest being the River Complex, which, as of Tuesday, August 25 burned a total of about 54,995 acres. On Monday, the total acreage burning in Humboldt and Trinity Counties is 206,851. Containment is not expected until there is a season ending storm. Please review the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Air Quality Index (enclosed). Today, air quality was GOOD until about noon when it began to worsen to the MODERATE classification. A similar pattern is expected on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Cleaner Air Facilities are available at the following locations:

HOOPA-Neighborhood Facilities Building

Highway, 96, Hoopa.

Open Monday-Sunday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

HOOPA-Senior Nutrition Center (seniors only)

Loop Road, Hoopa.

Open Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

WILLOW CREEK-Community Resource Center

38883 Highway 299, Willow Creek.

Open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

HAWKINS BAR-Grange

At the intersection of Denny Road and Highway 299, Hawkins Bar

Monday-Sunday 9 a.m.-7p.m.

WEITCHPEC-Libby Nix Community Center

2301 Highway 96, Weitchpec

Open 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m.
(530) 625-4130

Those who request a HEPA air filter from K'ima:w Medical Center in Hoopa are being evaluated on a case-by-case basis by medical providers. K'ima:w Medical Center is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.- 5p.m. with the exception of being closed from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on Wednesdays. K'ima:w Medical Center can be reached at (530) 625-4261.

Although some face masks are helpful to filter particulate matter, they are not effective at filtering all toxins associated with wildfire smoke. Choose a mask that is rated N95 or N100. Masks must be worn correctly to be helpful. Masks can provide a false sense of security. Precautions should continue to be followed whether or not a mask is available. Instructions on how to correctly use masks is attached to this announcement.

The Hoopa Valley Tribal Environmental Protection Agency is monitoring air quality and particulate matter in Hoopa at two locations, one on the valley floor and one at about 1,400-foot elevation. Particulate matter concentrations are also being monitored by the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD) at the following locations: Crescent City, Gasquet, Orleans, Weitchpec, Hoopa, Willow Creek, Burnt Ranch, Weaverville, Hayfork, Hyampom, Mad River, Eureka and Garberville.

The following fires are generating smoke in the Klamath-Trinity river communities, and surrounding counties: **Mad River Complex, Humboldt Complex, Route Complex, Nickowitz Fire, Horse Fire, Gasquet Complex, South Complex, River Complex, Fork Complex, Rocky Fire.**
Fire information can be found at www.inciweb.gov

To receive daily air quality updates from Hoopa OES, please send an email to hoopasmoke2015@gmail.com.

Smoke inquiries/coordination: Sunshine Jackson (707) 502-7833 oessunshine84@gmail.com

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM WILDFIRE SMOKE

Take precautions to relieve yourself and your family from the smoke. Use common sense when participating in outdoor activity. Smoke levels vary depending on fire behavior and weather conditions. Strenuous physical activity should be limited during periods of heavy smoke. The following recommendations currently apply:

- Sensitive people with heart of lung disease, asthma, older adults, small children and infants should remain indoors with windows and doors closed as much as possible.
- If you have air conditioning and/or air filtration in your home and car, it is recommended that you use it. Change standard filters to a medium or high efficiency filter. Use the re-circulate or recycle feature if available.
- Do not use fans or swamp coolers that bring smoky outdoor air inside.
- Avoid physical activity outdoors, especially if you are experiencing dizziness, burning eyes, persistent coughing or fatigue. During periods of heavy smoke avoid all outdoor activity.
- Call or visit your medical provider if you are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness.
- If you don't have an air filter and/or air conditioner, visit a cleaner air facility near you.

Symptoms that may be related to excess smoke exposure include:

- Repeated coughing
- Shortness of breath and difficulty breathing
- Wheezing
- Chest tightness or pain
- Palpitations
- Nausea or unusual fatigue
- Lightheadedness