



NORTH COAST UNIFIED AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
707 L Street, Eureka, CA 95501
Telephone (707) 443-3093 FAX (707) 443-3099
<http://www.ncuaqmd.org>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wildfire Smoke Public Service Announcement

Smoke, haze, and degraded air quality conditions continue throughout Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity Counties due to the numerous fires in the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forest as well as State Responsibility Areas.

Air Resource Advisors/Meteorologists for the Shasta-Trinity & Six Rivers Complexes expect the cold front to arrive later today bringing increased cloudiness and higher humidity. Clouds associated with this system may delay or prevent the mixing and clearing of smoke today in some locations. After the rain on Saturday smoke conditions should be much improved, except in areas closest to the fires due to active smoldering. Rain associated with this system will be heaviest at the Coast and decreasing as it moves inland. The Democrat Fire near Weaverville is at 128 acres and 75% percent contained. Weaverville residents can expect additional local smoke from this fire.

Weather forecasts indicate that the low pressure system will impact the region today with cloud cover and increasing southerly winds over the ridges and upper slopes late this evening. Wetting rain is expected after midnight and into early Saturday along the coast and northward into Del Norte County. The rain will diminish to scattered showers through the day on Saturday with cool and moist conditions persisting through next week. Most locations may continue to see some high concentrations for a few hours each day.

Particulate Matter (PM2.5) concentrations continued to be monitored throughout the air District at the following locations: Crescent City, Gasquet, Orleans, Weitchpec, Hoopa, Willow Creek, Burnt Ranch, Weaverville, Hayfork, Hyampom, Mad River, Eureka, and Garberville. An *Unhealthy Advisory* has been issued for several communities near the fires (see www.ncuaqmd.org).

These are the main fires of interest that are generating smoke:

- Mad River Complex** (Humboldt/Trinity County)
- Humboldt Complex** (Humboldt County)
- Route Complex** (Humboldt County)
- Nickowitz Fire** (Humboldt/Del Norte County)
- Horse Fire** (Humboldt County)
- Gasquet Complex** (Del Norte County)
- South Complex** (Hyampom (Trinity County)
- River Complex** (Humboldt/Trinity County)
- Fork Complex** (Trinity County)
- Rocky Fire** – Lower Lake (Lake County)

Fire Information can be found at www.inciweb.nwccg.gov.



Health Information for Smoke Impacts

Concentrations of smoke may vary depending upon location, weather, and distance from the fire. Smoke from wildfires and structure fires contain harmful chemicals that can affect your health. Smoke can cause eye and throat irritation, coughing, and difficulty breathing. People who are at greatest risk of experiencing symptoms due to smoke include: those with respiratory disease (such as asthma), those with heart disease, young children, and older adults.

These sensitive populations should stay indoors and avoid prolonged activity. All others should limit prolonged or heavy activity and time spent outdoors. Even healthy adults can be affected by smoke. Seek medical help if you have symptoms that worsen or become severe.

If you can see, taste, or feel smoke, contact your local health department and/or primary healthcare provider. This is especially important if you have health concerns, are elderly, are pregnant, or have a child in your care.

Follow these general precautions to protect your health during a smoke event:

- Minimize or stop outdoor activities, especially exercise
- Stay indoors with windows and doors closed as much as possible
- Do not run fans that bring smoky outdoor air inside – examples include swamp coolers, whole-house fans, and fresh air ventilation systems
- Run your air-conditioner only if it does not bring smoke in from the outdoors. Change the standard air conditioner filter to a medium or high efficiency filter. If available, use the “re-circulate” or “recycle” setting on the unit
- Do not smoke, fry food, or do other things that will create indoor air pollution

If you have lung disease (including asthma) or heart disease, closely monitor your health and contact your doctor if you have symptoms that worsen.

Consider leaving the area until smoke conditions improve if you have repeated coughing, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest tightness or pain, palpitations, nausea, unusual fatigue, lightheadedness.

**For 24-hour Air Quality Advisory Information, call toll-free at
1-866-BURN-DAY (1-866-287-6329).**

**For further information, visit the District’s website at
www.ncuagmd.org**

