

LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

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AIR QUALITY ALERT for Saturday through Sunday, August 4 & 5, 2018 **Moderate to Hazardous Air Quality for Lake County.**

August 4, 2018 @ 6:00pm The smoke and haze currently impacting many areas of Lake County are primarily the result of the River Fire and Ranch Fire in Lake and Mendocino Counties. The continued "UNHEALTHY" to "HAZARDOUS" air quality alert for the portions of Lakeport and Clearlake, and all of the North Shore results from the heavy smoke conditions expected from the burn areas. All other areas of Lake County are forecast to have Moderate to Unhealthy conditions depending on the wind and fire conditions.

The District is actively monitoring the smoke impacts throughout the County. Current particulate levels in Lake County are in the range from "Moderate" to "Unhealthy". With particulate levels this high, everyone needs to take steps to protect themselves from exposure. The potential for "Unhealthy" levels of smoke through out the County are expected to continue through the weekend. All areas may experience "Unhealthy" or worse air quality, and individuals should take precautions. The smoke is expected to remain in Lake County through the weekend or longer depending on the weather and fire activity, though we may see periods of improving air quality as the winds shift through the next few days.

Conditions can change quickly. Smokey conditions can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and air passages. These conditions can be hazardous for sensitive individuals including children, the elderly, individuals with heart conditions, and those with chronic lung disease such as asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory conditions. Individuals with asthma, bronchitis, emphysema and other lung or heart diseases should carefully adhere to their medical treatment plans and maintain at least a five-day supply of prescribed medications. They should limit outdoor activity and unnecessary physical exertion while smoke is present. Air conditioning that recirculates indoor air should be used, when available. Drinking plenty of water to avoid drying of the airways is recommended, unless restricted for medical reasons.

If you cannot leave the smoky area, good ways to protect your lungs from wildfire smoke include staying indoors and reducing physical activity. Wearing an air purifying respirator can also help protect your lungs from wildfire smoke. Air purifying respirators, such as N-95 or P100 filtering face pieces, may be effective in reducing some of the harmful particulate matter, but they also increase the work of breathing, can lead to physiologic stress, and are not recommended as a general protective measure. Dust masks are not protective against the ultra fine particulate, which is the pollutant most detrimental to health caused by wildfire smoke.

If you are in an area that has been repopulated or has not been evacuated, please remember that the smoke and ash are hazardous to your health and the health of others. Do not use yard blowers or other similar equipment to clear the ash. Avoid all activities that cause the ash to become airborne to prevent creating additional health hazards for yourself and your community.

With air quality forecast continues to be in the “Unhealthy” to “Hazardous” range for portions of Lakeport and Clearlake, and all of the North Shore Communities, the rest of the County is forecast to be “Moderate” to “Unhealthy” depending on the winds and fire activity. When smoke or ash is present, people are recommended to use caution, avoid strenuous activity, avoid outdoor activities, and reduce other sources of air pollution (such as smoking, use of aerosol products, frying or broiling meats, burning candles, vacuuming, etc.) and be prepared for rapidly changing conditions. Localized areas in the higher levels of hazardous air quality can be expected for the several days, until the local fires are partially contained and the weather pattern shifts to clear the smoke. Take appropriate measures until the smoke clears.