



LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY
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-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

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UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY ALERT on Thursday, August 24, 2017 **Unhealthy Air Quality for Lake County.**

The smoke and haze currently visible throughout Lake County are primarily the result of transport smoke from numerous fires in Northern California and Southern Oregon. These include the Orleans Complex, Eclipse Complex, Salmon August Complex, Ruth Complex Umpqua North Complex, Chetco Bar, Miller Complex, High Cascade Complex, and Falcon Complex. Satellite imagery shows extreme levels of smoke generation drifting into Northern California and Lake County. The UNHEALTHY to HAZARDOUS air quality alert results from ultra fine particulates and other air pollutants contained in the smoke combined with the high temperatures and humidity.

The District is actively monitoring the transport smoke impacts. Current particulate levels in Lake County are reaching Unhealthy for sensitive individuals to Unhealthy for everyone levels in many areas. The smoke can be expected to continue impacting Lake County with potential for Unhealthy levels through the week.

Smokey conditions can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and air passages. These conditions can be hazardous for sensitive individual including young children, the elderly, individuals with heart conditions, and those with chronic lung disease such as asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory conditions. The extreme heat forecast for Lake County can make the stress worse if combined with physical exertion.

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. 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.

Dust masks are not protective against the ultra fine particulate, which is the pollutant most detrimental to health caused by wildfire smoke. Air purifying respirators, such as N-95 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.

With air quality in the “Unhealthy” range, people are recommended to use caution, avoid strenuous activity, avoid outdoor activities when possible, 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 of very unhealthy or hazardous air quality, regional haze, and particulate from these fires can be expected until the weather pattern changes. Take appropriate measures until the smoke clears.