



LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY
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-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

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UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY ALERT on Monday August 13, 2012
Air Quality in Lake County has Degraded from Smoke Intrusions
Caution is Urged for Monday August 13, 2012

The Wye, Walker, and Hopland Grade fires continue to burn in Lake County resulting in smoke, haze, and degraded air quality. Because of the weather patterns and lack of control of the fires Lake County is experiencing unhealthy air quality. Values have not exceeded State health based particulate standards for small respirable particulate and Ozone (photochemical smog). The prediction for Monday given current wind conditions and levels of particulate and ozone presently in the air, is that air quality for Lake County will be "UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE INDIVIDUALS" to "UNHEALTHY FOR EVERYONE." Greatest concern exists for the North Shore communities, Clearlake, and the Eastern portions of Lake County. Areas closer to the active fires may experience "SEVERE" air quality due to the high levels of fine particulates.

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

The UNHEALTHY alert results from smoke transported by winds and ozone generated with the smoke, high temperatures, significant sunlight, and humidity. The smoke and sunlight cause chemical reactions in the air that further reduces visibility by forming secondary particles in addition to those already in the smoke. These particles draw the moisture out of the air, growing in number and size, making the haze even worse.

Poor air quality, haze, and particulate from the ongoing wildfires can be expected to continue throughout Lake County for the next few days until the fires are out.