



LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
885 Lakeport Blvd
Lakeport, CA 95453
Phone (707) 263-7000
Fax (707) 263-0421

Douglas G. Gearhart
Air Pollution Control Officer
doug@lcaqmd.net

-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

CONTACT: Douglas Gearhart, APCO @ 263-7000 **RELEASE DATE:** August 13, 2012

UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY ALERT on Tuesday August 14, 2012
Air Quality in Lake County has Degraded from Smoke Intrusions
Caution is Urged for Tuesday August 14, 2012

The Wye and Walker 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. On Monday, ozone and particulate levels exceeded State health based standards for small respirable particulate and ozone (photochemical smog). The prediction for Tuesday is for "UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE INDIVIDUALS" to "UNHEALTHY FOR EVERYONE" air quality in Lake County. Greatest concern exists for the North Shore communities, Clearlake, and the Eastern portions of Lake County. Areas closer to the active fires may experience "HAZARDOUS" air quality due to the high levels of fine particulates and ozone.

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, and 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.

The UNHEALTHY air quality alert results from fine particulate in the smoke and ground level ozone, generated by combustion products in the smoke combined with the high temperatures, significant sunlight, and humidity. Other chemical reactions reduce visibility by forming secondary particulates that grow in size as they draw moisture out of the air.

Poor air quality, haze, and particulate from the ongoing wildfires is expected to continue throughout Lake County until the fires are out.