



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 14, 2012

**MODERATE to UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY ALERT**  
**For Wednesday August 15, 2012**  
**Air Quality in Lake County Degraded from Smoke Intrusions**  
**Caution is Urged for Wednesday August 15, 2012**

Weather forecasts indicate favorable west winds will push smoke away from the Lake County air basin most of Wednesday. However, there is a chance of overnight settling of smoke that could linger into the morning hours before the west wind resumes.

Air Quality conditions on Tuesday were notably improved over Monday, due primarily to better meteorological conditions and advances in controlling the wildfires. Areas close to the fires experienced significantly degraded air quality today, but most areas of the Lake County experienced good to moderate air quality. Levels of ozone and particulate were elevated, but did not exceed State health-based air quality standards.

The prediction for Wednesday is for "MODERATE" to "UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE INDIVIDUALS" 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 "UNHEALTHY" to "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 MODERATE to UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE INDIVIDUALS 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.