



**LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY
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-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

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UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY ALERT
Air Quality in Lake County May be Degraded from Smoke Intrusions
Caution is Urged for Monday, September 10, 2012

The Scotts fire continues to burn resulting in smoke, haze, and degraded air quality. Weather forecasts indicate less than favorable conditions for much of the Lake County air basin, resulting in smoke blowing into or settling into the basin. The National Weather Service issued a Red Flag warning for Lake County for Sunday Afternoon and evening for gusty winds and low humidity. Wind forecasts for Sunday Night and Monday include periods of North and Northwest winds which would result in potentially significant air quality degradation from the Scotts Fire.

Air Quality conditions on Sunday were good much of the day, though Blue Lakes, Upper Lake, and Portions of Scotts Valley are unhealthy due to the high levels of particulate in those communities. Levels of ozone are elevated, but have not exceed State health-based air quality standards.

The prediction for Monday is for "UNHEALTHY" air quality through much of Lake County. All areas of the County may be significantly impacted should meteorological conditions not improve. Smoke impacts are most likely to occur overnight through Monday, depending on the progress of the fire and wind conditions. With North and Northwest winds forecast, areas of the County could experience "HAZARDOUS" air quality levels.

Smoke from wildfires contains harmful chemicals that can affect your health. Smokey conditions can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and air passages. These conditions can be hazardous to everyone and your pets. People who are at greatest risk of experiencing symptoms due to smoke include: including young children, the elderly, and individuals with heart conditions, and those with chronic lung disease such as asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory conditions.

Children, the elderly, and those with respiratory disease or heart disease should stay indoors and avoid prolonged activity. All others should limit prolonged or heavy activity and time spent outdoors. Even healthy adults can be affected by smoke. Seek medical help if you have symptoms that worsen or become severe. Remember to take precautions and plan ahead as smoke conditions can change quickly.

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