



LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY
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-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

CONTACT: Douglas Gearhart, APCO @ 263-7000 **RELEASE DATE:** September 5, 2012

MODERATE to UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY ALERT
For Thursday September 6, 2012
Air Quality in Lake County Degraded from Smoke Intrusions
Caution is Urged for Thursday September 6, 2012

The Sixteen Complex and North Pass fires continue to burn resulting in smoke, haze, and degraded air quality. Weather forecasts indicate favorable west winds will push smoke away from the Lake County air basin during the afternoon hours. However, overnight settling of smoke is likely and could linger into the morning hours.

Air Quality conditions significantly improved through most of the County from early morning to late afternoon on Wednesday, due primarily to better meteorological conditions. 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 Thursday is for "MODERATE" to "UNHEALTHY" air quality in Lake County. Greatest concern exists for the North Shore communities, Clearlake, and the South Eastern portions of Lake County, although all areas of the County may be impacted. Smoke impacts are forecast to be most significant from the early morning hours through mid-day Thursday. At times on Thursday, areas of the County could experience "UNHEALTHY" to "HAZARDOUS" air quality levels as smoke settles into the basin.

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 MODERATE to 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 wildfires is expected to continue throughout Lake County until the fires are out.

