



**LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY
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-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

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GOOD TO MODERATE AIR QUALITY ALERT

For Friday September 7, 2012

Air Quality in Lake County May be Degraded from Smoke Intrusions

Caution is Urged for Friday September 7, 2012

The Sixteen Complex and North Pass fires continue to burn resulting in smoke, haze, and degraded air quality. Weather forecasts indicate favorable conditions should continue to push smoke away from the Lake County air basin. However, settling of smoke into the basin is likely and could result in intermittent air quality degradation.

Air Quality conditions were significantly better than forecast for Thursday, due primarily to better meteorological conditions that anticipated. Areas close to the fires experienced some degradation of 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 Friday is for "GOOD " to "MODERATE" 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 most likely to occur during the early morning hours through mid-day Friday. At times on Friday, areas of the County could experience " UNHEALTHY" 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 GOOD to MODERATE 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.