



**LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY  
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**-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-**

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**MODERATE to UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY ALERT**  
**Air Quality in Lake County May be Degraded from Smoke Intrusions**  
**Caution is Urged for September 8 & 9, 2012**

The Scotts and Sixteen Complex fires continue to burn resulting in smoke, haze, and degraded air quality. Weather forecasts indicate generally favorable conditions should continue to push smoke away from much of the Lake County air basin. However, calm conditions overnight resulting in settling of smoke into the basin is likely. Wind forecasts for the weekend include periods of North and Northwest winds which would result in potentially significant air quality degradation from the Scotts Fire.

Air Quality conditions on Friday were good much of the day, and several hours of significant smoke intrusion mid day. The Clearlake and North Shore areas experienced more significant degradation of air quality today than . Levels of ozone and particulate were elevated, but did not exceed State health-based air quality standards, though localized areas may have experienced significantly higher levels.

The prediction for the weekend is for “MODERATE “ to “UNHEALTHY” air quality in Lake County. All areas of the County may be significantly impacted should meteorological conditions worsen. Smoke impacts are most likely to occur overnight, Saturday afternoon through Sunday, depending on the progress of the fire fighting efforts. At times this weekend, areas of the County could experience “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. Remember to take precautions and plan ahead as smoke conditions can change quickly.

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.