

**JOINT PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE LAKE COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT & AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

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**RELEASE DATE:** July 10, 2012

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**Smoke Impacting Air Quality in Lake County  
Caution is Recommended**

(Joint Public Information Release of the Health Department and AQMD)

The Mill fire continues to grow in Colusa County, resulting in smoke, haze and degraded air quality for Lake County. Because of the weather patterns and lack of control of the Mill fire, most of Lake County been affected by the smoke.

The current one hour average measurement in Lakeport is greater than 90% of allowed State health based particulate standards, designed to protect sensitive groups of the population, for small respirable particulate and the ultrafine, inhalable, particulate. These levels are expected to rise with potential for unhealthy air in areas of the County until the Mill fire is contained.

Though conditions are still in the healthy range in Lakeport, isolated areas throughout Lake County may experience unhealthy to severe air quality as the smoke settles. The morning inversion layer has minimized impacts on the basin floor, though conditions can change quickly. Regional weather patterns suggest continued smoke impacts for the next couple days, with relief possible by late this week as a west/southwest wind pattern develops.

Lake County Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Tait advises area residents to be cautious in resuming normal outdoor activities. "Variable weather conditions and ongoing fire activity may result in localized areas of reduced air quality, which could still pose health risks to people with underlying health conditions. Since we can't always predict when and where 'pockets' of poorer air quality may occur, it is prudent to be careful until conditions stabilize." Smokey conditions can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and air passages, which can be hazardous in young children, the elderly, individuals with heart conditions or chronic lung disease such as asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory conditions.

Individuals with asthma, bronchitis, emphysema and other lung or heart diseases should carefully adhere to their medical treatment plans and maintain at least a five-day supply of prescribed medications. They should limit outdoor activity and unnecessary physical exertion. Air conditioning that recirculates indoor air should be used, when available. Drinking plenty of water to avoid drying of the airways is recommended, unless restricted for medical reasons.

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Dust masks are not protective against the most harmful pollutants caused by wildfire smoke that drifts to nearby areas. They are useful in filtering out the ash and larger particles that are encountered in burn areas and should be considered when recovering property or cleaning areas that have burned. Air purifying respirators, such as N-95 filtering face pieces, may be effective in reducing harmful particulate matter, but also increase the work of breathing, can lead to physiologic stress, and are not recommended as a general protective measure.

Regional haze and particulates from the Mill fire are expected to continue throughout Lake County until the fire is out.