



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

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**IMPROVING AIR QUALITY FORECAST**  
**Air Quality in Lake County has Degraded from Smoke Intrusions**  
**Caution is Urged for Thursday July 12, 2012**

The Mills fire continues to burn in the Mendocino National Forest resulting in smoke, haze, and degraded air quality. Because of the current weather patterns and lack of control of the Mill fire in Colusa County, Lake County is experiencing unhealthy air quality. Air quality values have exceeded State health based particulate standards for small respirable particulate and Ozone (photochemical smog). The prediction for tomorrow, given EXPECTED wind conditions and levels of particulate and ozone presently trapped in the air basin, is Air Quality levels will be "MODERATE" to "UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE INDIVIDUALS" in Lake County. Greatest concern exists from mid-morning through late afternoon, with conditions expected to improve starting mid-afternoon as the ridge of high pressure begins to break down allowing the west winds to start clearing out the smoke. Conditions are forecast to improve through the weekend resulting in a forecast for healthier air quality and cooler temperatures.

Smokey conditions can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and air passages, which can be hazardous for sensitive individual including young children, the elderly, individuals with heart conditions or chronic lung disease such as asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory conditions. The heat can make the stress worse, especially if exercising hard.

The MODERATE to UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE INDIVIDUALS alert results from smoke transported by winds and ozone generated with the smoke, high temperatures, significant sunlight, and humidity. The smoke and sunlight cause chemical reactions in the air that further reduces visibility by forming secondary particles in addition to those already in the smoke. These particles draw the moisture out of the air, growing in number and size, making the haze even worse.

Residual haze and particulate from the many ongoing wildfires can be expected to continue throughout Lake County until the fires are out.