



**LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**
885 Lakeport Blvd
Lakeport, CA 95453
Phone (707) 263-7000
Fax (707) 263-0421

Douglas G. Gearhart
Air Pollution Control Officer
doug@lcaqmd.net

-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

CONTACT: Douglas Gearhart, APCO @ 263-7000 **RELEASE DATE:** July 13, 2012

**Reduced Smoke Results in Good Air Quality in Lake County
Caution is Still Urged**

The Mill fire continues to burn in Northern California resulting in smoke, haze and periods of degraded air quality. Because of the weather patterns and increasing control of the Mill fire, most of Lake County has experienced improved healthful air. Many areas of Northern California remain under health warnings for air quality.

Ozone and Particulate levels remain below the State and Federal health based standards. These standards are designed to protect sensitive groups of the population from small respirable particulate, ultrafine inhalable, particulate, and ozone.

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.

The improved air quality forecast is a direct result of the progress in controlling the wildfires and the sustained westerly transport winds. Presently the Mill fire is still a significant concern for air quality in Lake County. Smoke impacts in Lake County are likely through the weekend as east winds are forecast for parts of Saturday and Sunday. We do not anticipate unhealthy air quality throughout the County, but localized pockets of heavy smoke are possible. Strong west winds are predicted for late afternoon through early evening on both Saturday and Sunday, which will help keep our air clear of heavy smoke.

Conditions are improving and GOOD air quality is forecast once again for Lake County for the weekend, July 14 & 15, 2012. Caution is still urged as conditions can change rapidly. Residual haze and particulate from the wildfires can be expected to intermittently impact areas of Lake County through the weekend, until the numerous fires are out.