

# LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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## **-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-**

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### **AIR QUALITY ALERT on Saturday, October 14, 2017** **Good Air Quality in Lake County, Be Prepared for Changing Conditions.**

The smoke and haze currently visible through areas of Lake County this week has dissipated today as a result of the moderate North East winds. The smoke from the Tubbs Fire in Napa and Sonoma Counties, the Pocket Fire in Sonoma County, and the Redwood Complex fire in Mendocino County has not settled into the basin since Friday Night. The "GOOD" to "UNHEALTHY FOR EVERYONE" air quality alert results from the variable weather conditions experienced in Lake County and the forecast for extended smoke impacts, as the winds associated with the red flag warning subside, the smoke from these fires is expected to return to Lake County with a potential for unhealthy conditions.

The District is actively monitoring the smoke impacts. Current particulate levels in Lake County are in the range from "Good" in the Middletown and Hidden Valley Lake areas to "Good" range in the northern portions of the County. With the subsiding of the North Eastern winds, the smoke levels in the County are expected to increase. All areas may experience "Unhealthy" air quality at times, though overall conditions are improving. The smoke is expected to remain in Lake County through the weekend, though we may see periods of with improved or degraded air quality as the winds shift through the next few days. Conditions can change quickly. Smokey conditions can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and air passages. These conditions can be hazardous for sensitive individual including children, the elderly, individuals with heart conditions, and those with 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.

If you cannot leave the smoky area, good ways to protect your lungs from wildfire smoke include staying indoors and reducing physical activity. Wearing an air purifying respirator can also help protect your lungs from wildfire smoke. Air purifying respirators, such as N-95 or P100 filtering face pieces, may be effective in reducing some of the harmful particulate matter, but they also increase the work of breathing, can lead to physiologic stress, and are not recommended as a general protective measure. Dust masks are not protective against the ultra fine particulate, which is the pollutant most detrimental to health caused by wildfire smoke.

With air quality forecast to be in the “Good” degrading to potentially “Unhealthy” conditions into the overnight hours, people are recommended to use caution when the smoke is present, avoid strenuous activity, avoid outdoor activities when possible, and reduce other sources of air pollution (such as smoking, use of aerosol products, frying or broiling meats, burning candles, vacuuming, etc.) and be prepared for rapidly changing conditions. Localized areas of very unhealthy or hazardous air quality, regional haze, and particulate from these fires can be expected until the regional fires are fully contained and the weather pattern shifts to clear the smoke. Take appropriate measures until the smoke clears.