

LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

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AIR QUALITY ALERT on Sunday, October 15, 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 favorable 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 “Moderate” air quality forecast with a chance of “UNHEALTHY” Air Quality results from the variable weather conditions experienced in Lake County and the region. As containment improves on the fires, conditions should improve. Smoke from these fires is likely to continue to impact the county with winds from the west being forecast for Tuesday.

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 south winds forecast into the evening, smoke is expected to increase, though the transition to an east wind overnight will help clear out the County for Monday. All areas of the County may experience “Unhealthy” air quality at times when conditions become unfavorable, though overall conditions are improving. The smoke is expected to intermittently impact all of Lake County through the week.

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” to “Moderate”, all areas of the County should remain prepared for “Unhealthy” conditions if conditions change. 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 unhealthy 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 fires are out and remaining smoke clears.