



LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY
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-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

CONTACT: Douglas Gearhart, APCO @ 263-7000 **RELEASE DATE:** July 29, 2013

MODERATE to UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY ALERT for July 29, 2013 **Air Quality in Lake County May be Degraded from Smoke Intrusions** **Caution is Urged.**

July 29, 2013 @ 11:30am -- The Douglas Complex fire burning near Glendale, Oregon is resulting in smoke, haze, and degraded air quality in Lake County. According to the National Interagency Coordination Center Situation Report, the Douglas Complex fire has burned 13,400 acres and is only 2% contained. Expected containment of this fire is unknown. The fire is burning in timber and brush with extreme fire behavior. Weather forecasts indicate moderate to poor conditions which may result in intermittent smoke impacts for the Lake County air basin over the next week.

Air Quality conditions on Saturday and Sunday were good much of the day, with noticeable smoke intrusion in the evening and overnight. Particulate levels are currently elevated into the moderate to unhealthy for sensitive individuals range. Localized areas may experience high particulate levels and unhealthy air quality, depending on the weather conditions.

The air quality forecast for Lake County on Monday is “moderate” to “unhealthy for sensitive individuals.” All areas of Lake County may be significantly impacted should meteorological conditions worsen.

Smokey conditions can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and air passages. These conditions can be hazardous for sensitive individuals including young children, the elderly, and individuals with heart conditions, and those with chronic lung disease such as asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory conditions. Remember to take precautions and plan ahead as smoke conditions can change quickly.

The “moderate” to “unhealthy for sensitive individuals” air quality alert results from fine particulate in the smoke and the possibility of increased ground level ozone. These are generated when combustion products in the smoke combine with the high temperatures, sunlight, and humidity. Other chemical reactions reduce visibility by forming secondary particulates. Poor air quality, haze, and particulate from the ongoing wildfires are expected to continue throughout Lake County.