



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 30, 2013

MODERATE to UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY ALERT for July 30 & 31, 2013 **Air Quality in Lake County May be Degraded from Smoke Intrusions** **Caution is Urged.**

July 30, 2013 @ 3:00pm -- 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 dated July 30, 2013 @ 0530MT, the Douglas Complex fire has burned over 21,400 acres and is only 5% 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 through Wednesday.

Air Quality conditions on Monday were Unhealthy much of the day, with noticeable smoke intrusion. Ultrafine particulate levels are elevated into the moderate to unhealthy for sensitive individuals range. Localized areas may experience intermittent particulate levels in the unhealthy to hazardous range, depending on the weather conditions.

The air quality forecast for Lake County on Tuesday and Wednesday is “moderate” to “unhealthy for sensitive individuals,” with localized higher concentration areas possible. All areas of Lake County may be significantly impacted should meteorological conditions worsen. Meteorological forecasts indicate the smokey conditions should start to clear Wednesday through Thursday, with healthy air quality returning for the weekend.

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 through Wednesday, with healthy air quality expected for the weekend.