



LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY  
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### **-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-**

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Lake County Air Quality Management  
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### **MODERATE to UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY for August 6 & 7, 2015** **Air Quality in Lake County May be Degraded From Smoke Intrusions** **Caution is Urged.**

August 6, 2015 @ 2:00pm -- The Rocky fire is resulting in smoke, haze, and degraded air quality throughout Lake County. Weather forecasts indicate degrading conditions which will allow smoke impacts in the Lake County air basin through Friday.

The Lake County Quality Management District reports that Air Quality conditions currently are in the "Moderate" range. Most of Lake County experienced "Moderate" air quality intermittently during the late morning and early afternoon today. The forecast in areas impacted by smoke is for "Moderate" to "Unhealthy" air quality. Similar conditions are expected Friday. East by South East winds are forecast, which could bring more smoke into the basin. Slight variations in the wind direction can result in significant smoke impacts.

Conditions can change quickly from "Good" to "Very Unhealthy", and this may be the pattern for the next few days. Localized areas may experience intermittent particulate levels in the "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" range. All areas of Lake County may be significantly impacted should meteorological conditions worsen.

Lake County Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Tait advises residents to be cautious in resuming normal outdoor activities. "Public Health has received several reports of respiratory illness, mostly on Friday of last week. Although conditions may start to improve, people should still be cautious in resuming vigorous outdoor exercise, as we are certainly not back to our normally excellent air quality and we should expect fluctuations that take us into the 'unhealthy' zone."

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.

Dust masks are not protective against the most harmful pollutants caused by wildfire smoke that drifts to nearby areas. They are useful in filtering out the ash and larger particles that are encountered in burn areas. Air purifying respirators, such as N-95 filtering face pieces, may be effective in reducing harmful particulate matter, but also increase the work of breathing, can lead to physiologic stress, and are not recommended as a general protective measure.

The “Moderate” to “Unhealthy” air quality forecast results from lower levels of fine particulates 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 the week.