



LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY
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-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

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UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY ALERT on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2015 **Air Quality in Lake County is Unhealthy and Approaching Hazardous in Area.**

The Valley Fire continues to burn in Lake County resulting in smoke, haze, and poor air quality. Because of the weather patterns and lack of control of the fires, Lake County is experiencing unhealthy to hazardous air quality. The prediction for Sunday afternoon into Monday continues to be "UNHEALTHY" to "HAZARDOUS" air quality in Lake County. With the size of this fire, all areas of Lake County are affected by these conditions. Areas closer to the active fires may experience "HAZARDOUS" or worse air quality due to the high levels of fine particulates.

Smokey conditions can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and air passages. These conditions can be hazardous for sensitive individual including young children, the elderly, individuals with heart conditions, and those with chronic lung disease such as asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory conditions. The extreme heat forecast for Lake County can make the stress worse if combined with physical exertion.

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 UNHEALTHY to HAZARDOUS air quality alert results from fine particulates in the smoke combined with the high temperatures and humidity. Other volatile organic compounds from the incomplete combustion in the wildfire can cause significant concerns

as well.

Unhealthy air quality, haze, and particulate from the ongoing wildfire is expected to continue throughout Lake County until the fire is out.