



LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
2617 South Main Street
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: Dr. Karen Tait, Health Officer @ 263
-1090 Lake County Health Department

RELEASE DATE: August 4, 2015

Doug Gearhart, APCO @ 263-7000
Lake County Air Quality Management
District

GOOD TO MODERATE AIR QUALITY for August 4 & 5, 2015 **Air Quality in Lake County May be Degraded From Smoke Intrusions** **Caution is Urged.**

August 4, 2015 @ 3:00pm -- The Rocky fire is resulting in smoke, haze, and degraded air quality throughout Lake County. Weather forecasts indicate “Good” to “Moderate” conditions which will help air quality in the Lake County air basin through Wednesday.

The Lake County Quality Management District reports that Air Quality conditions currently are in the good range. Most of Lake County experienced “moderate” air quality for approximately one (1) hour during the early afternoon today. The overnight forecast in areas impacted by smoke is “Moderate” to “Unhealthy” air quality with “Good” returning for Wednesday. Similar conditions are expected Wednesday, through South, 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 “Unhealthy”, and this may be the pattern for the next few days. Localized areas may experience intermittent particulate levels in the “Moderate” to “Unhealthy” 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. “Variable weather conditions and ongoing fire activity may result in localized areas of reduced air quality, which could still pose health risks to people with underlying health conditions. Since we can’t always predict when and where “pockets” of poor air quality may occur, it is prudent to be careful until conditions stabilize.” Smokey conditions can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and air passages, which can be hazardous in young children, the elderly, individuals with heart conditions or 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.

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 “Good” to “Moderate” 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.