



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: Douglas Gearhart, APCO @ 263-7000 **RELEASE DATE:** August 11, 2015

GOOD to MODERATE AIR QUALITY for August 12 & 13, 2015 **Air Quality in Parts of Lake County May be Degraded From Smoke** **Caution is Urged.**

August 11, 2015 @ 1900 -- The Jerusalem fire continues to expand resulting. The fire is producing large smoke plumes. The current weather pattern is carrying the smoke to the East and North of Lake County, resulting in clean air on Tuesday, with Good to Moderate conditions are anticipated through Thursday.

The Lake County Quality Management District reports that Air Quality conditions currently are in the "Good" range. Portions of Lake County impacted by the smoke may experience "Moderate" or "Unhealthy" air quality intermittently through the week. Additionally, smoke from other Northern California fires has the potential to significantly impact the air quality in Lake County, as it did on Monday.

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 "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" range. All areas of Lake County may be significantly impacted should meteorological conditions worsen. Early forecasts for Friday into the weekend indicate a change in the weather pattern that may bring smoke back into Lake County from the Jerusalem fire.

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 they do not protect you from gasses, vapors, and other residual compounds in the burn area.

They also increase the work of breathing, can lead to physiologic stress, tend to leak if not properly fitted, and are not recommended as a general protective measure.

The “Good” to “Moderate” air quality forecast for Lake County results from lower levels of fine particulates in the smoke and the possibility of increased ground level ozone. Portions of Lake County, such as Clearlake Oaks, Spring Valley, and portions of the North Shore may experience intermittent periods of “Unhealthy” air quality as the smoke settles in the overnight hours. Intermittently poor air quality, haze, and particulate from the ongoing wildfires are expected to continue for Lake County until all the Northern California fires are out.