



LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY
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-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

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GOOD to MODERATE AIR QUALITY Forecast Through the Weekend **Air Quality in Lake County May be Degraded From Smoke Intrusions** **Caution is Urged.**

August 14, 2015 @ 1700hrs. -- The Jerusalem and Rocky fires have resulted in smoke, haze, and degraded air quality intermittently throughout Lake County. Several other major fires burning in Northern California, including the Humbolt Complex and other Northern California, Oregon, and Washington fires, are all contributing significant smoke to the air. With the forecast for north winds, we may experience smoke from these fires.

The Lake County Quality Management District reports that Air Quality conditions currently are in the "Good" range. Though the Jerusalem and Rocky Fires are not expected to contribute significant amounts of smoke, areas impacted by smoke from any of the fires currently burning in Northern California are forecast to have "Moderate" to "Unhealthy" air quality. Similar conditions are expected through the weekend, and possibly into next week.

Conditions can change quickly from "Good" to "Unhealthy for sensitive individuals." Localized areas may experience intermittent particulate levels in the "Unhealthy" range. All areas of Lake County may be significantly impacted, should meteorological conditions worsen.

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. Ozone is generated when combustion products in the smoke combine with the high temperatures, sunlight, and humidity. Other chemical reactions reduce visibility by forming secondary particulates.

Dust masks are not protective against fine particulate, which is the pollutant most detrimental to health caused by wildfire smoke. Such masks are only 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.

With the potential for significant smoke from the regional fires, individuals enjoying the outdoors especially those at higher elevations, such as Mt. Konocti park, Boggs Forest, and the Mendocino National Forest, should be prepared for potential smoke impacts. Caution is recommended.