



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 9, 2015

MODERATE to UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY for August 10, 2015 **Air Quality in Parts of Lake County May be Degraded From Smoke** **Caution is Urged.**

August 9, 2015 @ 11:00pm -- The Jerusalem fire has not resulted in smoke, haze, and degraded air quality, though impacts are forecast for the overnight hours into Monday. Weather forecasts indicate moderate conditions which will help to minimize smoke impacts in the Lake County air basin.

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 intermittently through the weekend due to smoke from other Northern California Fires. The forecast in areas impacted by smoke is for "Moderate" to "Unhealthy" air quality. Hidden Valley, Middletown, and Jerusalem Valley have a high probability of significant smoke impact and ash fall noticeable through the night and 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.

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 for South Lake County 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 for South Lake County. All other areas of Lake County are forecast to remain in the “Good” to “Moderate” range.