



LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY
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-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

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UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY ALERT on Tuesday July 10, 2012
Air Quality in Lake County has Degraded from Smoke Intrusions
Caution is Urged for Wednesday July 11, 2012

The Mills fire continues to burn in the Mendocino National Forest resulting in smoke, haze, and degraded air quality. Because of the weather patterns and lack of control of the Mills fire Lake County has experienced unhealthy air quality. While values have exceeded State health based particulate standards for small respirable particulate and Ozone (photochemical smog). The prediction for tomorrow given EXPECTED wind conditions and levels of particulate and ozone presently in the air, is that tomorrow will be an “UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE INDIVIDUALS” to “UNHEALTHY FOR EVERYONE” in Lake County. Greatest concern exists from mid-morning through early evening, with conditions expected to improve as the afternoon west wind start to clear out the smoke.

Smokey conditions can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and air passages, which can be hazardous for sensitive individual including young children, the elderly, individuals with heart conditions or chronic lung disease such as asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory conditions. The heat can make the stress worse, especially if exercising hard.

The UNHEALTHY alert results from smoke transported by winds and ozone generated with the smoke, high temperatures, significant sunlight, and humidity. The smoke and sunlight cause chemical reactions in the air that further reduces visibility by forming secondary particles in addition to those already in the smoke. These particles draw the moisture out of the air, growing in number and size, making the haze even worse.

Residual haze and particulate from the many ongoing wildfires can be expected to continue throughout Lake County until the fires are out.