

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 17, 2021
TIME: 04:00 PM

AIR QUALITY SMOKE ADVISORY **Moderate to Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups: August 17 - 19, 2021**

Smoke and haze has impacted all areas of the Lake County Air Basin this Tuesday. Multiple fires including the Dixie Fire, the McFarland Fire, the Monument Fire, and other fires burning in Northern California are creating the regional smoke impacts throughout Lake County and California. The new Caldor fire in El Dorado County will also contribute to smoke impact in Lake County over the next several days.

All areas of Lake County have experienced intermittent air quality impacts from Moderate to Hazardous over the past few weeks. The air quality forecast through Friday will range from “MODERATE” (AQI of 51-100) to “UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS” (AQI of 101-150) with a heightened potential for “UNHEALTHY FOR ALL” (AQI of 151 to 200) conditions as the forecasted North winds may bring smoke from the Northern California fires into Lake County. This forecast is based on the latest weather, monitoring, fire activity information and will be updated as necessary. The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for Lake County until 8PM Wednesday.

The District is actively monitoring the smoke impacts throughout the County. Additionally, you may go to WWW.LCAQMD.NET and follow the Quick Links for Air Monitoring for current smoke and air quality conditions. Current particulate levels in Lake County range from “Good” to “Moderate”. However, these values are forecast to degrade this evening / overnight to “UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS” or worse as smoke is pushed into the County.

Concentrations of smoke may vary depending upon location, weather, and elevation. Smoke from wildfires and structure fires contain harmful chemicals that can affect your health. Smoke and high winds can cause eye and throat irritation, coughing, and difficulty breathing. People who are at greatest risk of experiencing symptoms due to smoke include: those with respiratory disease (such as asthma), those with heart disease, young children, and older adults.

These sensitive populations should stay indoors and avoid prolonged activity. All others should limit prolonged or heavy activity and time spent outdoors. Even healthy adults can be affected by smoke. Seek medical help if you have symptoms that worsen or become severe.

Follow these general precautions to protect your health during a smoke event:

- Minimize or stop outdoor activities, especially exercise.
- Stay indoors with windows and doors closed as much as possible.
- Do not run fans that bring smoky outdoor air inside – examples include swamp coolers, whole-house fans, and fresh air ventilation systems.
- Run your air-conditioner only if it does not bring smoke in from the outdoors. Change the standard air conditioner filter to a medium or high efficiency filter. If available, use the “re-circulate” or “recycle” setting on the unit.
- Do not smoke, fry food, or do other things that will create indoor air pollution.

If you have lung disease (including asthma) or heart disease, closely monitor your health and contact your doctor if you have symptoms that worsen. Consider leaving the area until smoke conditions improve if you have repeated coughing, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest tightness or pain, palpitations, nausea, unusual fatigue, lightheadedness.

Localized areas of unhealthy air quality are possible throughout this fire season. Take appropriate measures whenever smoke is present.