

LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

CONTACT: Douglas Gearhart, APCO @ 263-7000 **RELEASE DATE:** August 20, 2021
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AIR QUALITY SMOKE ADVISORY **Moderate to Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups: August 20 - 22, 2021**

Smoke and haze continues to impact the Lake County Air Basin today. Multiple fires including the Dixie Fire, the McFarland Fire, the Monument Fire, and other fires burning throughout California and Oregon are creating regional smoke impacts throughout Lake County and Northern California. Calmer winds along with relatively stable air has settled over our region. The lack of mixing and westerly winds has resulted in most areas of Lake County to experiencing Unhealthy air quality today.

All areas of Lake County have experienced intermittent air quality impacts from “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” to “Hazardous” today. The air quality forecast for Saturday will range from “UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS” (AQI of 101-150) to “UNHEALTHY” (AQI of 151-200) with areas at higher elevations experiencing the most smoke impact. Current weather models indicate that we will start seeing some smoke clearing on Saturday and significant clearing on Sunday. Most areas should reach the “MODERATE” or “GOOD” thresholds. This forecast is based on the latest weather, monitoring, fire activity information and will be updated as necessary.

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.

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 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.