



**MENDOCINO COUNTY
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

ADVISORIES FOR MENDOCINO COUNTY

AIR QUALITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Wednesday through Friday, June 19-21, 2019

June 19, 2019 3:30 PM: The Air District is monitoring potential smoke impacts to Covelo and northern communities of Mendocino County from the East Fire and the Haynes Fire located 25 miles north of Round Valley in the Yolla Bolly Wilderness portion of the Mendocino National Forest. Smoke impacts are NOT forecast for the Mendocino Coast. Currently air monitors show particulate matter concentrations in the “Good” range in Ukiah and Willits.

Plans are in place to deploy an air quality monitor to Covelo from the State Air Monitoring Equipment Cache program to monitor smoke impacts to the community.

Based on the meteorological forecast, expect impacts with north winds on Thursday and continuing through Friday. Light and variable wind may bring occasion impacts of “Unhealthy” air. Please see the accompanying Public Health Advisory for recommendations of personal protection for sensitive groups, as well as, everyone during “Unhealthy”, or more severe, air quality conditions.

Mendocino County Air Quality Management District continuously monitors the air quality, reporting particulate matter and ozone concentrations hourly to our website: www.mendoair.org. In the sidebar on the right of our webpage (scroll down if using a mobile device), under “**Air Quality for Mendocino**”--**Click Here** for current conditions, forecast, and email alerts. For additional information, click on an air quality index range, or the colored tabs below the map.

For more air quality information visit: <https://airnow.gov>

To sign up for air quality notifications visit: <http://www.enviroflash.info/signup.cfm>



Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities
Tammy Moss Chandler, Director
Anne Molgaard, Chief Operations Officer



Barbara Howe, Public Health Director
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When the Mendocino Air Quality Management District advises that the air quality is “unhealthy” or “hazardous:”

1. A primary concern is that ‘high-risk groups’ --people over 65, under 12, pregnant women, and those people with pre-existing lung disease (such as asthma, bronchitis, COPD) or heart problems-- are at particular risk from breathing this air and should take extra precautions. Leave the smoky area, if possible, or at least stay indoors and limit physical activity.
 - People with pre-existing illnesses should carefully adhere to their medical treatment plans and maintain at least a five-day supply of prescribed medications.
2. Clearly, everyone is a risk when the air quality is in the “unhealthy” or “hazardous” range. If it is not possible to leave the area where smoke is present, recommendations are to limit outdoor activity and unnecessary physical exertion.
3. Smoke from wildfires contains chemicals, gases, and fine particles that can harm health. The greatest hazard comes from breathing fine particles, which can reduce lung function, worsen asthma and other existing heart and lung conditions, and cause coughing, wheezing and difficulty breathing.
4. Wearing a protective mask may offer some protection. N-95 masks can reduce contact with some of the harmful particulate matter, but they also increase the work of breathing and they don’t keep the smoke out, so they are not terribly effective as a general protective measure. It is much better to avoid the smoky air, if possible.
 - There are not effective masks for children.
 - If you would like N95 masks, they can be obtained for free at the libraries, and at Public Health.
 - Dust masks (different from N95) are not protective and really should not be used.
5. If you have air conditioning, turn it to interior recirculation or turn off and use fans. This prevents the intake of the outside, smoky air. Avoid vacuuming (which stirs up the dust) or increasing smoke in the house (for example burning candles or incense, or smoking cigarettes).
6. If you, or someone with you, begins to experience significant symptoms, such as dizziness, shortness of breath, or chest discomfort, get them out of the smoke and have them rest. If symptoms continue, seek medical attention.
7. Getting enough rest and drinking plenty of fluids may be helpful.