



MENDOCINO COUNTY
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

AIR QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR MENDOCINO COUNTY

Friday through Monday, August 13-16, 2021

August 12, 2021 4:00 p.m.: Currently air monitors show particulate matter concentrations in the “Good” to “Moderate” air quality level for most parts of the County and “Good” for the coastal areas. Smoke impacts are remaining to the north of Mendocino County from the surrounding wildfires, where fire growth continues in steep and rough terrain. Heavy smoke is hovering in the Trinity and Shasta area with some offshore drift near the California/Oregon border. For more detailed and current air quality and smoke information visit: <https://fire.airnow.gov>

Expect conditions to remain the same for the next few days in Mendocino County. Meteorological conditions are forecast to be more triple digit heat with the chance of isolated dry thunderstorms. The persistent high pressure fire weather may bring impacts of “Unhealthy” air and smoke accumulation to valley areas. Air quality for coastal areas are expected to be in the “Good” level, but may experience episodes of “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups”. While surrounding wildfires are active, expect isolated unpredictable smoke impacts to air quality followed by multiple periods of some relief through the next few days.

U.S. EPA AIR QUALITY INDEX (<https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>)

Action	Level of Concern	AQI Value	Actions to Protect Yourself
	Good	0 - 50	None, air quality is satisfactory and poses little or no risk
	Moderate	51 - 100	Sensitive individuals should limit prolonged or heavy exertion
	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG)	101 - 150	People within USG should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion
Advisory	Unhealthy (UH)	151 - 200	People within USG should avoid all prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion
Advisory	Very Unhealthy (VUH)	201 - 300	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion
Alert	Hazardous (HAZ)	> 301	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity

Smoke in heavy concentrations can cause eye and throat irritation, coughing, and difficulty breathing. Even healthy adults can be affected by smoke. When air quality conditions are “Unhealthy”, everyone should limit prolonged or heavy exertion activities outdoors. Cloth facial coverings that are used to slow the spread of COVID-19 offer little protection against wildfire smoke. Therefore, we recommend following 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.

- Consider creating a clean air room at home using a purchased or DIY HEPA air purifier. See CDC link provided below for more information.
- 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. For information on wildfire smoke and COVID-19, visit:

https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/covid-19/wildfire_smoke_covid-19.html

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.

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