



MENDOCINO COUNTY  
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY**  
**FOR MENDOCINO COUNTY**

**Wednesday, August 30 through Monday, September 4, 2023**

August 30, 2023 1:00 p.m.: Currently air monitors show particulate matter concentrations in the “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” to “Unhealthy” air quality level for most parts of the County. Smoke impacts to Mendocino County are due to numerous wildfires in Northern California, with the South Fork Complex, Six Rivers Lightning Complex, and the Smith River Complex being the largest.

For more detailed and current air quality and smoke information visit: <https://fire.airnow.gov>. The instructional video on how to use the AirNow Fire and Smoke Map is here: <https://vimeo.com/592345480>.

Current wildfires in Northern California were ignited by thunderstorms and remain active at low containment levels. Expect widespread haze and smoke impacts for most of Mendocino County in the next few days. The extended meteorological forecast is better air quality by this weekend with increased ventilation and a chance of precipitation. Fire weather conditions with persistent high pressure may bring impacts of “Unhealthy” air and smoke accumulation to valley areas. Air quality levels for inland and coastal areas are expected to be in the “Moderate” to “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” with possible improvements by Friday. While surrounding wildfires are active, expect 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    |
| <b>Advisory</b> | Unhealthy (UH)                       | 151 - 200 | People within USG should avoid all prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion |
| <b>Advisory</b> | Very Unhealthy (VUH)                 | 201 - 300 | Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion                      |
| <b>Alert</b>    | 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](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](http://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>