



Contact:
Placer County Air
Pollution Control
District 530-745-
2330

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Joint air quality advisory by Placer County Public Health and the Placer County Air Pollution Control District

AUBURN, Calif. -- Placer County Public Health and Placer County Air Pollution Control District have extended the joint air quality advisory to notify the public of continued poor air quality conditions due to smoke from wildfires including the Caldor Fire in El Dorado County and others in northern California. This advisory will remain in effect until fires are significantly contained. Considering this, Placer County residents should expect periods of widespread smoky conditions to potentially affect all portions of Placer County, dependent upon wind direction, for the foreseeable future.

Poor air quality from wildfire smoke has the potential to cause negative health impacts, particularly for sensitive groups and when exposure is prolonged. Smoke contains very tiny particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs. While all people may experience varying degrees of symptoms, the more sensitive individuals - such as young, aged and those with respiratory conditions - are at greatest risk of experiencing serious symptoms. Symptoms may include, but are not limited to, coughing, watery and itchy eyes, headache, scratchy throat, and difficulty in breathing.

If you can see or smell smoke, avoid all unnecessary outdoor activities, especially if you are in an area where visibility is greatly reduced. Here are recommended ways to reduce your smoke exposure:

- Stay indoors with the windows and doors closed, if possible, run the air conditioner on the "recirculation" setting
- Limit outdoor exertion and physical activity
- Leave the smoke-impacted areas until conditions improve, if possible
- Reduce unnecessary driving. If traveling through smoke-impacted areas, be sure that your vehicle's ventilation system is on recirculate
- Non-HEPA paper face mask filters and cloth face coverings may be helpful in reducing the spread of germs and viruses, but they are not capable of filtering out extra fine particulates which are much smaller in size. These will not be helpful in protecting individuals from smoke-related impacts. Information on the use of masks, including N95 masks and face coverings during smoke impacts can be found at <https://placerair.org/DocumentCenter/View/46777/Respirators-Masks-and-Face-Coverings?bidId=>.

Anyone experiencing serious symptoms due to smoke should contact a health professional. Persons who have a respiratory-related illness may also wish to consult their health care provider if they are experiencing smoke exposure.

Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly.

Information on air quality and smoke can be found AirNow's Fire and Smoke webpage at <https://fire.airnow.gov> which shows particulate matter data from permanent and temporary air monitors along with low-cost sensor data.

Wildfire smoke information can also be found on the District's website at www.placerair.org.

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