



North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD)

Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity County

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For Immediate Release

August 17, 2026

AIR QUALITY SMOKE ADVISORY

Summary

The recent MP18 Fire located just north of the town of Hoopa along the east side of Hwy 96 within the Hoopa Valley Reservation is generating most of the smoke impacts in Humboldt and Trinity County. Overall, smoke impacts are predominantly affecting the Hoopa Reservation and communities closest to Hoopa. Smoke is traveling along Humboldt and Trinity County river corridors and through towns along Hwy 299 into Weaverville and Hayfork areas. Smoke has additionally affected communities along the Klamath River within the Yurok Reservation, and those along the South Fork Trinity River into Hyampom, possibly as far south as Ruth Lake and Southern Humboldt. Depending on the weather, at times our region could also see some upper level smoke from fires as far away as Oregon, Washington, and Canada.

Smoke modeling indicates smoke may continue to affect communities as outlined above. A shift in wind directions and change in the weather may also cause widespread haze along the coast and affect other areas. Over the next few days, smoke impacts in the communities above will continue to see Air Quality Index (AQI) levels that may range from *Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG)* to even sustained periods of *Unhealthy* to *Very Unhealthy* at times. Check current AQI levels (links below) to stay informed as air quality can fluctuate throughout the day.

An Air Resource Advisor (ARA) Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program (IWFAQRP) (wildlandfiresmoke.net) has been deployed on the MP18 Fire. ARAs communicate smoke impacts to communities closest to the fires. Through the IWFAQRP dashboard (<https://dashboard.wildlandfiresmoke.net/>) you can track smoke impacts and outlooks from all dispatched ARAs.

All members of the public, especially those with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly, pregnant women, and children should remain alert, and if necessary, reduce or avoid all outdoor exertion when wildfire smoke is present. Everyone else should limit prolonged exertion in areas of noticeable smoke accumulation. All individuals are urged to use proper judgement when planning activities. Individuals wishing to minimize their exposure should:

- Limit exercise and outdoor activities
- Remain indoors, with the windows and doors closed
- Turn on an air conditioner with a recirculation setting (such as in a vehicle)

Information Resources

For information on the current Air Quality Index (AQI) for particulate matter, fire locations and smoke plumes, and Air Resource Advisor (ARA) Smoke Outlook Forecasts, use the **EPA's AirNow Fire & Smoke Map** (<https://fire.airnow.gov>) for real-time local updates. All AQI forecasts are based on a 24-hour average.

U.S. EPA AIR QUALITY INDEX (https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/)			
Notice	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
	Very Unhealthy (VUH)	201 - 300	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion
Alert	Hazardous (HAZ)	> 301	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity

Clean Air Centers provide a safe place to go during periods of intense wildfire smoke or poor air quality. For information about available Clean Air Centers go to **CARB's CA Clean Air Centers** at: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/cleanaircenters>.

For information about **School Air Quality and Outdoor Activity Guidance during wildfires** please visit: <https://www.ncuaqmd.org/aq-guidance-for-schools>.

Fire information can be found at <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2026/8/7/mp18-fire/>, <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> or at app.watchduty.org.

Health Information & Actions to Protect Yourself from Smoke Impacts

For information on the steps, you can take to keep your family safe before and during wildfire season visit **CARB's Smoke Ready California** (<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/smokereadyca>).

Concentrations of smoke may vary depending upon location, weather, and distance from the fire. 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:

- Young children
- The elderly
- Pregnant women
- People with chronic respiratory (asthma, COPD, etc.) and heart conditions
- People who work outside

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.

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 more information, please contact your applicable public health department within the NCUAQMD's tri-county jurisdiction:

Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services - Public Health Branch
(707) 445-6200 | www.humboldt.gov/330/Public-Health

County of Del Norte Public Health Branch
(707) 464-0861 | <https://www.co.del-norte.ca.us/departments/PublicHealth>

Trinity County Public Health
(530) 623-1358 | <https://www.trinitycounty.org/410/Public-Health>

For further information, visit the NCUAQMD's website at www.ncuaqmd.org or call the NCUAQMD's Wildfire Response Coordinator at (707) 443-3093 x122.