

MONOGRAM

AUGUST 2022



Wildfire Smoke Impacts Local Air Quality

Situation

On the afternoon of July 22, 2022, a wildfire ignited near the community of Midpines, California. As of July 27, 2022, the Oak Fire is burning at 18,715 acres with 32 percent containment. Significant firefighting and forest resources are assigned to the incident, helping to combat the Fire's spread. Details on the Oak Fire can be accessed [here](#).

Eastern Sierra residents and visitors are experiencing smoke as a result of the Oak Fire. Given the current containment, there is a risk of smoke for weeks to come.

Some communities have access to continuous particulate matter (PM) monitoring. These monitors provide an instant reading of particulate matter concentrations averaged over one hour. It is these fine particles which are contained in wildfire smoke which make it so hazardous to our health.

Click [here](#) for an up-to-date look at particulate levels in monitored areas of Mono County. Areas without monitoring need other ways to estimate particle levels.

MONOGRAM

AUGUST 2022

Air Quality

The following index is useful in judging the levels near you on a continual basis:

- **Good** (can see 11 miles or more) - No cautionary statements.
- **Moderate** (can see 6-10 miles) - Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
- **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** (can see 3-5 miles) - People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
- **Unhealthy** (can see 1½ -3 miles) - People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
- **Very Unhealthy** (can see 1-1½ mile) - People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
- **Hazardous** (can see 1 mile or less) - Everyone should avoid all physical activity outdoors. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should remain indoors and keep activity levels low.

Levels of Health Concern from Smoke (PM 2.5) or Dust (PM10) in the Air

Level of Health Concern	Hourly Concentration (µg/m ³)		Daily Concentration (µg/m ³)		Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District Health Advisory	Cautionary Statement	Health Effects Statement
	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀			
Good	0-38	0-171	0-12	0-54	None.	None.	Air quality is considered to be satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate	39-88	172-383	12.1-35.4	55-154	None.	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	89-138	384-633	35.5-55.4	155-254	Stage 1 Air Pollution Health Advisory issued when hourly PM _{2.5} reaches 100 µg/m ³ or when hourly PM ₁₀ reaches 400 µg/m ³	Health Alert: People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion. The general public is not likely to be effected.	Increased likelihood of respiratory symptoms in sensitive individuals, aggravation of heart or lung disease and premature mortality in persons with cardiopulmonary disease and the elderly.
Unhealthy	139-351	634-826	55.5-150.4	255-354	Stage 2 Air Pollution Health Advisory issued when hourly PM _{2.5} reaches 200 µg/m ³ or when hourly PM ₁₀ reaches 800 µg/m ³	Health Alert: Everyone may begin to experience health effects; people with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.	Increased aggravation of heart or lung disease and premature mortality in persons with cardiopulmonary disease and the elderly; increased respiratory effects in the general population.
Very Unhealthy	352-526	827-891	150.5-250.4	355-424	Stage 2 Air Pollution Health Advisory	Health Alert: People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.	Significant aggravation of heart or lung disease and premature mortality in persons with cardiopulmonary disease and the elderly; significant increase in respiratory effects in the general population.
Hazardous	527+	892+	250.5+	425+	Stage 2 Air Pollution Health Advisory	Health Warning of Emergency Conditions: Everyone should avoid any outdoor exertion; people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly, and children should remain indoors.	Significant aggravation of heart or lung disease and premature mortality in persons with cardiopulmonary disease and the elderly; significant increase in respiratory effects in the general population.

MONOGRAM

AUGUST 2022

Air Quality

In addition to using the visual guide, residents are encouraged to protect themselves and to seek medical treatment, if experiencing uncontrolled coughing, wheezing, or choking, or if breathing difficulty does not subside indoors.

Recommendations for Minimizing Smoke Exposure

1. Stay indoors with windows and doors closed; run air-conditioner on “recirculate” setting. Minimize the use of swamp coolers. If it becomes too warm indoors, individuals may consider leaving the area to seek alternative shelter.
2. When driving, make sure to drive with the windows rolled up and the air conditioner on “recirculate.”
3. Minimize or stop outdoor activities, especially exercise, during smoky conditions.
4. People who must spend time outdoors should drink plenty of fluids.
5. Additionally, pet owners should consider bringing their pets indoors out of the unhealthy air conditions, if possible. This is especially important for older pets.
6. Stay tuned to local radio and TV for emergency announcements about air quality.



Click [here](#) to keep up-to-date on the status of California’s wildfires and smoke impacts.

MONOGRAM

AUGUST 2022



Where can I find more information
about Air Quality?

[Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District](#)

[CAL FIRE](#)

[Fire and Smoke Map](#)

[PurpleAir Real-Time Air Quality Map](#)

