



**MENDOCINO COUNTY  
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY FOR MENDOCINO COUNTY**

**Wednesday through Friday, September 16-18, 2020**

September 15, 2020 5:00 p.m.: The nearby August Complex fire is very active and continues to produce significant smoke and as we know is the largest wildfire in California's history. Due to the active wildfires in northern California, expect widespread haze and smoke to continue for most of Mendocino County for the next few days. However, the high pressure system that has made it hot, dry and smoky in the county is weakening. Therefore, we may get some relief from the wildfire smoke as we approach the end of the week. Currently smoke from the surrounding wildfires remains elevated over the county. However, due to fluctuating wind directions, the smoke aloft may fall to the surface bringing "Unhealthy" to "Very Unhealthy" air to the area. Currently air monitors show particulate matter concentrations in the "Moderate" to "Unhealthy" range for most parts of the county. Inland communities are more likely to experience episodes of "Very Unhealthy" air quality.

Degraded air quality has now reached the coastal areas which may experience episodes of "Unhealthy" air. "Good" air quality could return by the end of this week for the coast.

Meteorological conditions have turned more favorable for better air quality for Mendocino County with the low pressure moving in from the coast. The extended forecast even suggests a chance of rain by the end of the week. Expect smoke impacts to continue in Mendocino County. Fire weather conditions may bring impacts of "Very Unhealthy" air and smoke accumulation to valley areas. Due to very dry fuels within many areas, wildfires remain very active and fires popping back may increase with more winds. Therefore, while surrounding wildfires are active, expect unpredictable smoke impacts to air quality followed by multiple periods of some relief through the next few days.

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. They do not catch small harmful particles in smoke that can harm your health. 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.

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.

For more air quality and smoke information visit: <https://fire.airnow.gov>

For information on wildfire smoke and COVID-19:

[https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/covid-19/wildfire\\_smoke\\_covid-19.html](https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/covid-19/wildfire_smoke_covid-19.html)

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