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MENDOCINO COUNTY
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
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For Immediate Release

Public Health Officer and Air Quality Advisory Issued 7-19-08

Release 24.0

For all areas of Mendocino County

(Ukiah) - Smoke accumulation from multiple wildland fires throughout Northern California may occur in parts of the County today. Satellite imagery this morning shows light smoke over the north County and heavier smoke in the Round Valley area. For the fifth day smoke appears to be following the Middle Fork of the Eel River from the fires in Trinity County to Round Valley – this situation is likely to continue until these fires are extinguished.

Because of the chance of local areas of poor air quality, the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District is issuing an Air Quality ADVISORY for today, Saturday, July 19th, 2008 until further notice.

The District is conducting continuous monitoring in Ukiah and monitoring in other locations as needed using a portable monitor. Monitoring results from 7/18-7/19 –

Site	Readings in mg/m3
Ukiah (8:00am 7/19 reading)	0.008 "Good"
Howard Forest CalFire Office (7/18 afternoon)	.094 "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups"

Winds are expected to be out of the northwest to northeast most of this week. Smoke will generally travel to the south and east from any fires; however terrain and local winds will also impact smoke dispersion.

Due to the improved air quality it ok for most citizens be outdoors, except when heavy smoke is present. Those individuals with extreme lung conditions should continue to stay indoors and avoid physical activity. Smoke is likely to be present near any fires. Conditions may change suddenly throughout the day. Please use your personal judgment and “common sense” when evaluating your environment in relation to your outdoor activities.

The Air Quality Management District also would like to remind the public that the countywide burn ban issued by the California Department of Forestry (Cal Fire) remains in effect; all outdoor burning is currently suspended.

Visibility Range	Health Category	Health Effects
10+ miles	Good	None
5-10 miles	Moderate	Usually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion
3-5 miles	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Sensitive people should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion
1.5 - 3 miles	Unhealthy	Sensitive people should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid heavy exertion.
.75 – 1.5 miles	Very Unhealthy	Very unhealthy sensitive people should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
>.75 miles	Hazardous	Sensitive people should remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Everyone else should avoid all physical activity outdoors.

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