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MENDOCINO COUNTY
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
AND
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY



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For Immediate Release

Public Health Officer and Air Quality Advisory Issued 7-17-08

Release 22.0

For all areas of Mendocino County

(Ukiah) - Smoke accumulation from multiple wildland fires throughout Mendocino County and 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 third day smoke appears to following the Middle Fork of the Eel River from the fires in Trinity County to Round Valley. Although the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District is not issuing an alert at this time local areas of poor air quality may still occur.

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, **Thursday, July 17, 2008, through 9:00 a.m. Friday, July 18, 2008.**

The District is conducting continuous monitoring in Ukiah and monitoring in other locations using a portable monitor when needed. Monitoring results from 7/17 -

Site	Readings in mg/m ³
Ukiah (8:00am 7/17)	0.009 "Good"

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

Due to the improved air quality today it ok for most citizens be outdoors. Those individuals with extreme lung conditions should continue to stay indoors and avoid physical activity.

Please use your personal judgment and “common sense” when evaluating your environment in relation to your outdoor activities.

Over the next few days, smoke may be present in the inland valleys and near any fires. Conditions are expected to be worse during the evening hours into the early morning as the smoke settles into low lying valleys. Conditions are likely to be generally better this week than last week.

The Air Quality Management District also would like to remind the public that the countywide burn ban issued by 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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