



**NORTHERN
SONOMA COUNTY**
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

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SMOKE ADVISORY through Friday, September 18th.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 15, 2020.

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Smoke Continues to Impact Northern Sonoma with Unhealthy Air Quality

Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District (NoSoCoAir.net) is issuing a smoke advisory. Wildfire smoke from numerous wildfires is causing elevated levels of particulate pollution which will continue to bring “**UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**” and “**UNHEALTHY**” air quality index (AQI). Near the coast and later this week we will have patches of “**MODERATE**” AQI. Concentrations of smoke may vary depending upon location, weather, and distance from the fire.

The smoke and haze from wildfires has impacted all areas of Sonoma County for over three weeks. Multiple fires including the August Complex in the Mendocino National Forest, the North Complex Fire burning in the Plumas National Forest, the Red Salmon Complex burning in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and many other fires in Northern California and Oregon are creating the regional smoke impacts throughout Sonoma County and California. Fortunately, the LNU Lightning Complex in Lake, Napa, Sonoma, Yolo, Solano, and Colusa Counties has achieved 97% containment, reducing some local smoke impacts.

The stubborn high-pressure ridge that had been hanging over the west coast and preventing smoke dispersion has dissipated and now a low-pressure trough will produce mild conditions with increasing southwest winds and a deepening marine layer that will provide increased relative humidity. Temperatures through Friday are forecast to be below average for this time of year. Smoke dispersion conditions will become more active and are forecast to peak Thursday through Friday. On Friday the low will weaken and a new weather conditions will emerge with temperatures increasing over the weekend.

Fire activity outside our region is expected to remain high and it will take a while to achieve full containment on the numerous fires burning and generating smoke. Residents should plan to continue to take measures to protect their health, such as staying indoors as much as possible to avoid exposure to smoke. The District has compiled a guidance document of tips for consideration: [Tips for Wildfire Smoke Resiliency](#).

As always, check the air quality index (AQI) frequently. For a regional AQI and forecast with a smart-phone friendly update visit www.AirNow.gov. For more local detail with monitor and senso measurements, visit AirNow’s Fire and Smoke map at Fire.AirNow.gov. The District home page includes a [recommended activity guidance chart](#) for the AQI index.