



Air Quality Health Advisory EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 18 TO SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

The Public Health Departments for Yuba and Sutter counties and the Feather River Air Quality Management District are extending the air quality health advisory due to potentially poor air quality conditions from wildfire smoke. Southerly winds have brought relief from the smoke to our area. The past two days the AQI levels have been in the Moderate range in the valley and Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups to Moderate in the foothills. There is potential for more smoke as the winds are forecasted to shift starting Saturday, unless the large regional wildfires are brought into containment.

Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups AQI levels may return as soon as Saturday. Ozone is expected to be in the Moderate to Good AQI range during this period.

The Sutter and Yuba Public Health Departments advise residents with lung or heart disease, and the elderly to leave areas where levels of particulate matter are high. For everyone else, when you smell smoke, or see smoke around you, you should consider staying indoors and avoiding heavy exertion. For those also affected by the PSPS making indoor accommodations not possible, please consider temporarily evacuating to a different area that can safely allow you to stay indoors until the PSPS resolves

Smoke density can vary widely over short distances and due to changes in metrological conditions. "Because smoke generation and weather are ever changing accurate predictions of smoke impacts are difficult, residents are encouraged to be aware of local conditions." warns Christopher D. Brown, Air Pollution Control Officer.

You can check current conditions online at www.fire.airnow.gov or www.sparetheair.com. Residents can also sign up for air quality forecasts and alerts at www.fraqmd.org that can be sent by email or text message. Residents that do not have internet access may also check particulate matter levels by listening to reports from local radio stations, local news, checking the local newspaper such as the Appeal-Democrat (during extended wildfire smoke impacts), or by using the distance/visibility table at the bottom of this advisory.

Residents who see or smell smoke should consider these precautionary measures:

- Healthy people should delay strenuous exercise, particularly when they can smell smoke.
- Children and elderly people should consider avoiding outdoor activities, particularly prolonged outdoor exertion. Parents of children involved in youth sports programs should consider whether their children be allowed to participate when smoke is in the air.
- People with health-related illnesses, particularly respiratory problems, should remain indoors.
- Keep windows and doors closed as much as possible. Use the recycle or recirculate mode on the air conditioner in your home or car.
- Masks, such as cloth masks worn to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, are not capable of filtering extra fine particles found in wildfire smoke.

- Do not rely on HEPA (N-95) respirators to do unnecessary outdoor activities.
- Keep airways moist by drinking lots of water. Breathing through a warm, wet washcloth can also help relieve dryness, but does not filter out the hazardous smoke particles.
- Avoid the fire areas and watch for emergency equipment.

Wildfire smoke may contain particulate matter, ozone, carbon monoxide, and toxic air contaminants. While all persons may experience varying degrees of symptoms, more sensitive individuals, such as the young, aged and those with respiratory conditions are at greatest risk of experiencing more aggravated symptoms. Symptoms may include, but are not limited to, coughing, watery and itchy eyes, and difficulty breathing. Persons experiencing questionable or severe symptoms should seek professional medical advice and treatment.

The following index may also assist in assessing the air quality based on the visibility in your area. To assess visibility:

- Face away from the sun. Determine visibility range by looking for targets that are at known distances (miles). You can use an electronic device map app or a map of the local area that has a mile scale.
- The visible range is the point where even high-contrast objects disappear.

Distance you can see	Recommended action if you are a healthy adult, teenager, or other child	Recommended action if you are age 65 and over, pregnant, a young child or have asthma, respiratory illness, or lung or heart disease
10 + miles	Watch for changing conditions and moderate outdoor activity based on personal sensitivity	
5 – 10 miles	Moderate outdoor activity	Minimize or avoid outdoor activity
Less than 5 miles	Minimize or avoid outdoor activity	Stay inside or in a location with good air quality

Some examples of local distances: From the junction of Hwy 99 and Hwy 20 to the South Butte in the Sutter Buttes is about 11 miles; from the 10th Street bridge to Township Road is about 5 miles; from the intersection of Hwy 20 and Acacia Avenue to the South Butte is about 5.5 miles; and the distance between the 5th Street and 10th Street bridges is about 0.5 mile.

County officials will continue to monitor air quality in Sutter and Yuba County and provide updates on this advisory as needed. For current information, or to sign up for air quality alerts and forecasts, go to the Feather River Air Quality Management District website <http://www.fraqmd.org/> or check the Sutter County and Sutter County Public Health Facebook pages or Yuba County website.

Air Quality Index		
AQI Category and Color	Index Value	Description of Air Quality
Good Green	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate Yellow	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups Orange	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Unhealthy Red	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy Purple	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Hazardous Maroon	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.