

# Shasta County

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## Air Quality Management District

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# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Air Quality and Public Health officials encourage daily attention to air quality due to smoke from wildfires**

**SHASTA COUNTY** – The Shasta County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and the Public Health Branch of the Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency would like to remind the public that, due to the Delta and Hirz Fires continuing to burn in Shasta County, as well as other fires being managed in Northern California and Southern Oregon, it is important to check air quality levels when making daily plans. As we have seen over the past few weeks, conditions can change quickly and can also vary in different areas of the county based on elevation, topography and the direction of winds. These changing conditions will continue until the fires are under control, making the habit of checking air quality a practice that should be done frequently.

**Based on current and predicted weather patterns; particulate matter levels within the Sacramento River drainage and the I-5 corridor are expected to vary from MODERATE (AQI 51-100 range), to HAZARDOUS (AQI 301+ range), throughout the next three days. This includes the areas of REDDING, SHASTA LAKE, and LAKEHEAD. Smoke is expected to be worse in the early morning hours, then improve in the afternoon as southerly winds materialize.**

For other areas in Shasta County, particulate matter readings can be anywhere on the Air Quality Index from MODERATE (AQI 51-100 range), UNHEALTHY for SENSITIVE GROUPS (AQI 101-150 range), UNHEALTHY (AQI 151 to 200 range), VERY UNHEALTHY (AQI 201-300 range), and HAZARDOUS (AQI 301+). All members of the public, especially those with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly, pregnant women, and children should remain alert, and if necessary, reduce

or avoid all outdoor exertion when wildfire smoke is present. When levels are not favorable, everyone else should limit prolonged exertion in areas of noticeable smoke accumulation. Individuals wishing to minimize their exposure should:

- Limit exercise and outdoor activities
- Remain indoors with the windows and doors closed
- Turn on an air conditioner with a recirculation setting (such as in a vehicle)

The Air Quality Management District operates one air quality monitor in Anderson that continuously monitors for fine particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size (PM2.5). And the California Air Resources Board has set up air quality monitors in Redding and Lakehead that continuously monitor for PM2.5.

The AQI readings from the fixed monitors are updated hourly and are available at the following website: [www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm\\_index/aq\\_index/aq\\_map.aspx](http://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm_index/aq_index/aq_map.aspx)

Additionally, the air district has deployed experimental particulate matter (smoke) sensors throughout Shasta County. These sensors are not official monitors but can be used to help gauge smoke levels locations. When accessing this data, it is advisable to switch the Map Data Layer dialogue box in the lower left hand corner from “None” to “AQ and U”. This will apply a correction factor that will make the readings relate more closely to the official air quality data. They can be accessed at:

<https://www.purpleair.com/map?&zoom=12&lat=40.574291292965746&lng=-122.36273060000002&clustersize=27&orderby=L&latr=0.2472149724742181&lng=0.6591796875>

For additional information and updates, you may visit the Air Quality Management District Wildfire Smoke Webpage at: [https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm\\_index/aq\\_index/aq\\_wildfire.aspx](https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm_index/aq_index/aq_wildfire.aspx) or call 225-5674.

Additional safety tips can be found by going to [www.shastahhsa.net](http://www.shastahhsa.net) and by clicking the “wildfire smoke link under our current health concerns”.

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