

Shasta County

Air Quality Management District

1855 Placer Street, Suite 101

Redding, California 96001 Phone: (530) 225-5674

FAX (530) 225-5237

Health and Human Services Agency

2615 Breslauer Way, Building 5

Redding, CA 96001 (530) 225-5970

FAX (530) 229-8447

P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Air Quality Management District, 225-5674

Tim Mapes, Community Education Specialist, (530) 245-6863

Air Quality and Public Health officials encourage daily attention to air quality. Breathing masks still available.

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 VERY UNHEALTHY (AQI 201-300 range), throughout the next three days. This includes areas of REDDING, SHASTA LAKE, and LAKEHEAD which may experience periods where particulate matter levels reach HAZARDOUS (AQI 301+). Smoke is expected to be worse in the early morning hours, then improve in the afternoon and coming days 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)

Additionally, officials would like to remind the public that the use of N95 masks is encouraged if you find yourself having to be outside. Free masks are available at all HHS regional offices (1220 Sacramento Street in Downtown Redding, 2757 Churn Creek Road in the Enterprise area of Redding, 4216 Shasta Dam Boulevard in the City of Shasta Lake, 2889 East Center Street in Anderson, and also the Public Health Clinic and Cascade Buildings on Breslauer Way in Redding).

The public can also check the [211 Shasta website](#) for other locations for free masks.

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

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 in particular 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=0.659179687>

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 or call 225-5674.

Additional safety tips can be found by going to www.shastahhsa.net and by clicking the “wildfire smoke link under our current health concerns”.

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