



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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SMOKE FROM NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND SOUTHERN OREGON WILDFIRES IMPACTING COUNTY AIR QUALITY

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY – Air quality in Santa Cruz County has been affected by wildfires in Northern California and Southern Oregon. Concentrations of smoke are considered unhealthy or unhealthy for sensitive groups depending upon location within the County. Smoke from the wildfires is expected to continue at least until Friday.

Smoke can cause eye and throat irritation, coughing, and difficulty breathing. People who are at greatest risk of experiencing symptoms (sensitive populations) are:

- **Young children**
- **Older adults**
- **Pregnant women**
- **People with respiratory conditions (such as asthma or emphysema) or heart conditions.**

Sensitive populations within impacted areas are advised to avoid prolonged outdoor activity and seek medical help if respiratory symptoms worsen.

When smoke levels are high, even healthy people may experience symptoms such as coughing, a scratchy throat, irritated sinuses, shortness of breath, headaches, stinging eyes, and a runny nose. Residents experiencing symptoms should limit outdoor physical activities and stay indoors, if at all possible.

For up-to-date information about air quality in the Monterey Bay Area go to: [Current Air Quality & Forecast - Monterey Bay Air Resources District \(mbard.org\)](https://mbard.org).

For up-to-date information about fires in California go to: [California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection | CAL FIRE \(https://fire.ca.gov\)](https://fire.ca.gov).