



Yakima Health District

News Release

For immediate release: August 15, 2018

Contact: Lilián Bravo, Director of Public Health Partnerships

509-249-6514

Unhealthy Air Quality in Yakima County

YAKIMA, WA- Air quality is poor across the state and in the Yakima Valley as wildfire smoke blows in from multiple fires in the region, and it is expected to remain poor for the next several days.

Current air quality in the area is listed as unhealthy. When air quality is unhealthy, young children, the elderly, and individuals with chronic lung or heart problems are especially sensitive to poor air quality and are recommended to avoid time outdoors until air quality improves. Healthy individuals are recommended to avoid strenuous activity outdoors whenever possible.

It is also recommended that individuals avoid driving if possible, and that when using air conditioners in cars or at home to make sure to choose to recirculate air rather than bringing in outside air. It is *not* recommended that individuals use dust or surgical masks as these are generally ineffective at filtering smoke from the air.

Please continue to monitor your local air quality at wasmoke.blogspot.com and take recommended precautions based on the index color correlated to the nearest air monitoring site to your location. If you have chronic lung or heart disease make sure to take any related medications as prescribed and seek medical care if you experience increased symptoms.

For more information:

Washington Smoke Information <http://wasmoke.blogspot.com/p/national-interagency-fire-information.html>

Washington's Air Monitoring Network <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/enviwa/>

Washington State Department of Health

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/AirQuality/SmokeFromFires/>

Washington Department of Ecology <https://ecology.wa.gov/Research-Data/Monitoring-assessment/Washington-Air-Quality-Advisory>

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