



News Release

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 2019

PH19-030

CONTACT: Corey Egel | 916.440.7259 | CDPHpress@cdph.ca.gov

California Department of Public Health Urges Residents in Wildfire Areas to be Aware of Air Quality

SACRAMENTO – With a growing number of wildfires in both Northern and Southern California, the air quality in many parts of the state may be unhealthy. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is providing [additional information, tools and resources on its website](#) so individuals can check on the air quality in their town or city and have a better understanding on the impact it can have on their health.

“Air quality may be changing in a number of our communities, even those far away from the fires,” said State Public Health Officer and CDPH Director Dr. Sonia Angell. “It’s important that you have the information you need to stay safe: children, women who are pregnant and older adults, and people with existing lung and heart conditions may be particularly sensitive to changes in air quality.”

On CDPH’s website, visitors can view [current air quality conditions](#) by simply entering their zip code. The table below provides suggested actions based on conditions.

0-50	Good	Enjoy your usual outdoor activities.
51-100	Moderate	Extremely sensitive children and adults should refrain from strenuous outdoor activities.
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Sensitive children and adults should limit prolonged outdoor activity.
151-200	Unhealthy	Sensitive groups should avoid outdoor exposure and others should limit prolonged outdoor activity.
201-300	Very Unhealthy	Sensitive groups should stay indoors and others should avoid outdoor activity.
301-500	Hazardous	Everyone should avoid all outdoor exertion.



Residents should monitor children and check-in on others who may be more susceptible to the health impacts of wildfire smoke. Seek immediate medical care if someone is experiencing chest pain, chest tightness, or shortness of breath.

The following tips can help Californians reduce smoke inhalation during wildfires:

Stay Indoors: Stay inside with the doors and windows closed to reduce exposure to smoky air. If you have power, run an air conditioner if you have one. If the air conditioner has a recirculate option, use it. Smoke levels can change during the course of a day, so try to stay indoors during smokier times.

Reduce Activity: Reduce physical activity to reduce inhalation of smoky air. During exercise, people can increase their air intake as much as 20 times from their resting level.

Be Prepared: Monitor wildfire activity in your area and be prepared to evacuate if advised.

As part of emergency preparedness make sure that all prescribed medications are filled, and this includes if you have prescribed inhalers.

For information on air quality in your area and how to protect your health during wildfires, please visit the [CDPH website](#).

[En Español](#)

www.cdph.ca.gov