



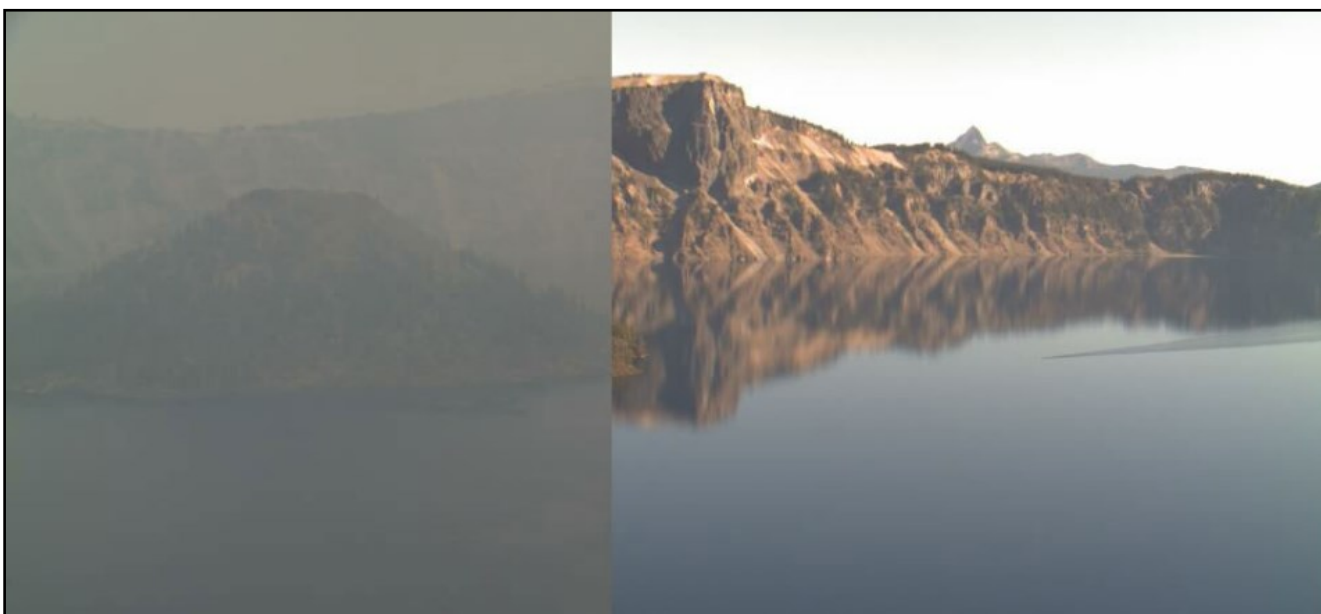
# Klamath County Public Health

Accountability ♦ Compassion ♦ Excellence  
Integrity ♦ Respect

## Why does air quality matter?

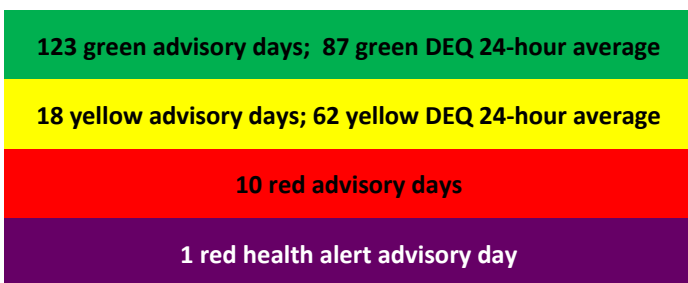
Poor air quality is a specific burden to those with lung and heart issues. However, pregnant women and children are also at a greater risk for contracting breathing issues, which can influence other bodily systems. KCPH encourages Klamath County residents to discuss N95 mask use with their primary care provider.

## Does smoke get trapped here?



Just like the rim around Crater Lake, above, the mountains surrounding the Klamath Basin create a barrier. When wind and weather conditions are not perfect, the terrain makes it difficult for smoke to leave the Basin. Shown above are split frame images of the visibility of Crater Lake with and without smoky conditions

## Klamath County air quality season results



Air quality season runs from October 15 to March 15 annually. The results, left, show the advisory call made to help improve or maintain good air quality, along with the actual Department of Environmental Quality 24-hour average results. The three-day difference between the numbers was due to the air quality monitor system being down. KCPH's daily air quality advisory is an attempt to mitigate the forecasted weather and wind conditions to provide the best air quality index for the following 24 hours. This resulted in no red 24-hour averages last year.

Category	Numeric value	Meaning
Good	0 to 50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for sensitive groups	101 to 150	Members of the sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151 to 200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.
Harmful	301 to 500	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.

# Klamath County wildfire smoke intrusion

6

Good days

18

Moderate days

10

Unhealthy for sensitive groups days

24

Unhealthy days

3

Very unhealthy days

## Wildfire smoke and chronic conditions

People with any chronic condition should take the following steps to protect themselves from wildfire smoke:

Before wildfire season:

- Talk to your healthcare provider. Plan how you will protect yourself against wildfire smoke.
- Stock up on medicine. Store a 7 to 10-day supply of prescription medicines in a waterproof, childproof container to take with you if you evacuate.
- Buy groceries you won't need to cook. Frying or grilling especially can make indoor air pollution worse.

During a wildfire smoke event:

- Pay attention to air quality reports. Follow instructions about exercise and going outside for "sensitive individuals."
- Follow your healthcare provider's advice and your asthma action plan if you have one.
- Think about evacuating if you have trouble breathing or other symptoms that do not get better.

After a wildfire:

- Do not return home until you are told it is safe to do so.
- Look out for any symptoms. Contact your healthcare provider if you have trouble breathing, shortness of breath, cough that won't stop, or other symptoms that do not go away. Call 9-1-1 or go right away to an emergency department for medical emergencies.
- Smoke can stay in the air days after wildfires have ended so continue to check local air quality.

Smoke intrusion occurred between July 18 and September 16, 2018.

These numbers reflect the 24-hour air quality average as measured by the Department of Environmental Quality.