



San Francisco Department of Public Health

Greg Wagner
Acting Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco
London N. Breed
Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA ADVISORY

SAN FRANCISCO AIR QUALITY AFFECTED BY LOCAL WILDFIRES

November 15, 2018- The Camp Fire has expanded to over 140,000 acres and is at 40 percent contained. San Francisco is experiencing unusually smoky air as a result of local weather patterns. We have had Air Quality in the red or “unhealthy” range since Friday, Nov 9. Today we moved into purple or “very unhealthy” range (this means that everyone may experience more serious health effects). At Purple levels, we recommend that everyone stay indoors and avoid exposure to the outside air. We also recommend cancelling outdoor events during Purple Air Quality levels. We may be moving in and out of these levels and so it is important to know what each level means and what action to take.

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical 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 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.
Hazardous	301 to 500	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.



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From Red levels (unhealthy) up to Purple (very unhealthy) and even at Maroon (hazardous) levels, people should remain indoors with windows closed, and continue to remain indoors until air quality improves. For those whose indoor air is inadequate, or for those who are unsheltered, please access indoor locations such as malls, libraries, and other locations found at www.sf72.org.

The use of N95 masks are no substitute for staying indoors. If you must absolutely be outside, and choose to wear a N95 mask, it needs to be fit tested or at the very minimum, fit well with no gaps and be replaced when airflow becomes restricted. N95 masks can be sourced at local hardware stores.

It is very important that you contact your health care provider if you experience the following symptoms:

- Repeated coughing
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Wheezing
- Chest tightness or pain
- Palpitations
- Nausea or unusual fatigue
- Lightheadedness

As always, if you or someone you know is experiencing a life-threatening emergency, call **9-1-1**. Follow these precautions to protect your health:

- Minimize outdoor activities
- Stay indoors with windows and doors closed as much as possible
- Do not run fans that bring smoky outdoor air inside
- Run your air-conditioner only if it does not bring smoke in from the outdoors
- Consider leaving the area until smoke conditions improve if you experience symptoms related to smoke exposure
- Check on your neighbors and vulnerable people in the community

City agencies including Fire, Police, Human Services, Rec and Park, Public Health and more are working collectively to respond quickly to conditions as they arise. SFUSD has announced that they will close schools tomorrow, Friday, November 16. We are in consultation with neighboring counties and have sent mutual aid resources to both the Camp Fire and to So Cal including engines and staffing.

Human Services is working with community agencies and partners to get information out and make sure vulnerable people are safe. The Department of Homelessness has expanded their outreach to those on the street, offering water, masks and transportation to shelters.



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Public Health is outreaching to hospitals, community agencies, and critical partners to coordinate and deliver services.

You can go to our website at www.sfdph.org or www.sf72.org for current Air Quality resources. You can also go to baaqmd.gov and airnow.gov for current conditions.