

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Poor Air Quality Conditions in Kittitas County

Kittitas County is currently under an air quality alert, which has been issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). Smoke from several fires is affecting the air quality in Kittitas County and the alert is effective until 9am tomorrow, August 21st. The Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) will provide an additional update tomorrow as long as air quality conditions continue to be poor.

According to the Interactive Air Quality Map via Ecology, the monitor in Ellensburg is showing unhealthy air quality. Everyone should reduce exposure to unhealthy air quality. Limit time outside. Avoid strenuous outdoor activity and follow tips for cleaner indoor air.

- Close windows and doors unless it is too hot to maintain safe temperatures.
- Don't add to indoor air pollution, such as cigarette smoking or burning candles.
- Filter indoor air through an HVAC system, HEPA portable air cleaner, or DIY box fan filter.
- Set air conditioning to recirculate.

KCPHD wants residents to be aware of current air quality conditions and to take necessary steps to avoid negative health effects. Air quality information can be accessed at any time via Ecology at [Interactive Maps \(wa.gov\)](https://www.ecy.wa.gov/interactive-maps). The Air Quality Index (AQI) measures the air quality with categories ranging from “good” to “hazardous” air. Additional resources include the following:

- Washington Smoke Blog <http://wasmoke.blogspot.com/> contains information about smoke as well as active wildfires.
- National Weather Service <http://www.weather.gov/> has weather related alerts, including air quality.
- Washington State Department of Health's Wildfire Smoke page <http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/AirQuality/SmokeFromFires/WildfireSmoke> explains the harmful health impacts of wildfire smoke.

[Washington Children and Youth Activities Guide for Air Quality](#) provides information on specific activity recommendations based on air quality conditions. For more information about health concerns relating to air quality or informational resources, please contact KCPHD at (509)-962-7515.

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