

MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact: Kasey Knutson, Public Information Officer, 509-962-7515

Possible Changing Air Conditions in Kittitas County from Wildfire Smoke

Kittitas County is currently under an air quality alert, which has been issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). Smoke from the Wildcat Fire may affect the air quality in Kittitas County and the alert issued by Ecology is effective until further notice.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) measures the air quality with categories ranging from “good” to “hazardous” air. Per the issued air quality alert, air quality in Kittitas County may reach the “unhealthy” category. When air quality is Unhealthy, everyone should reduce exposure. Limit time outside, avoid strenuous outdoor activity, and follow tips for cleaner indoor air. Hot temperatures will increase the risk of heat-related illnesses. Drink plenty of fluids, stay in an air-conditioned room, stay out of the sun, and check up on relatives and neighbors.

As of today, at 12:00 pm, air quality in Ellensburg is “moderate”. The [Washington Smoke Blog](#) recommends the following actions:

- Everyone: Don’t see or smell smoke? It’s o.k. to open windows or go outdoors.
- Unusually sensitive people: Keep outdoor activities light and short. Go indoors if you have symptoms.

You can find updated recommended actions for current air conditions from the [Washington Smoke Blog](#). Click on the air quality monitor closest to your location on the air quality map for current air conditions, trend air conditions, and action to take.

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 \(wa.gov\)](#).

Additional resources include the following:

- 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 State Department of Health’s Children and Youth Activities Guide for Air Quality](#) provides recommendations to protect children and youth from negative health effects of poor air quality.

Please watch for changing 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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