



# Okanogan County Public Health

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<http://www.okanogancounty.org/ochd/>

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August 20, 2015

To: Okanogan County EOC, General Release

Subject: Forest Fire Public Service Announcement (PSA)

This Public service announcement is provided in response to the current fire conditions existing in Okanogan and surrounding counties.

**Due to smoke from fires burning in Okanogan County and surrounding counties, the air quality in Okanogan County is currently at the hazardous level. Over the next few days, air quality is expected to range from hazardous to very unhealthy. When the air quality is at hazardous levels, more healthy people are likely to have breathing problems. The people most susceptible are those with asthma or lung disease, diabetes, have had a stroke, infants, children, pregnant women, and adults older than 65. Studies suggest more people with asthma, lung or heart disease will need medical attention.**

**Everyone should stay indoors if at all possible, do only light activities, and keep windows closed if it is not too hot. Run air conditioners on re-circulate and close the outside air intake. Use indoor air cleaners with HEPA filters, if available. If you must be outdoors, wear an N-95 respirator mask. People with chronic diseases should check with their health care provider before wearing a mask. Check with your local health department for health information. People with asthma, lung and heart disease, or have had a stroke should check with their health care provider for advice about leaving the area. Anyone with shortness of breath, wheezing, chest pain, heart palpitations, extreme fatigue, or difficulty moving or speaking should call their health care provider or call 911. During hot weather if you do not have air conditioning then consider visiting a place that does, such as a friend's house, relative's house, or a public library. Don't smoke and try to avoid physical exertion. Lastly, if you experience symptoms of cardiovascular or lung problems contact your health care provider. If you cannot reach your health care provider call 911.**

More information is available concerning air quality at the following websites:

**Ecology:**      <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/enviwa/Default.ltr.aspx>  
<http://wasmoke.blogspot.com/>

The Washington Smoke Information blog (above) is a central information point that leads to both current wildfire and smoke information and to smoke forecast information.

Should you have any questions regarding this information please contact our office at (509) 422-7140. Our normal office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm.

Dave Hilton  
Environmental Health Director

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HEALTHIER WASHINGTON