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PRESS RELEASE

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AIR QUALITY ADVISORY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Advisory update to notify the public of continued poor air quality in Butte County due to smoke from the numerous fires in Butte, Tehama, Shasta and surrounding counties. There continues to be visible haze in the valley areas of Butte County and times of unhealthy air while the air quality for the foothills continues to be very unhealthy and has reached hazardous levels.

Yesterday Butte County exceeded the federal health-based average 24-hour Ambient Air Quality Standard of 35 micro grams per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The 24-hour average in Chico yesterday was **54 ug/m³** which is equal to an Air Quality Index of **128**.

Today the Air Quality Index in Chico is forecast to reach 140 At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY** for sensitive people.

The 24-hour average yesterday at the Paradise Airport monitor was **281 ug/m³** which is equal to an Air Quality Index of **331**.

Today the Air Quality Index in Paradise is forecast to reach 330. At this level the air quality is rated **HAZARDOUS** for all people.

Unhealthy air quality conditions are expected to continue in localized areas and particularly the foothills until the fires are extinguished. All recommendations for minimizing smoke exposure continue to be in effect in smoky areas of the county.

Recommendations for Minimizing Smoke Exposure

- ✓ Stay indoors with windows and doors closed; run air-conditioner on "recirculate" setting. Do not run swamp coolers. If it becomes too warm indoors, individuals may consider leaving the area to seek alternative shelter.
- ✓ Minimize or stop outdoor activities, especially exercise, or children's sporting events during smoky conditions.
- ✓ People in a "high risk" group or those who cannot find adequate shelter from the smoke outside may need to move to an emergency shelter located out of smoky areas.
- ✓ People who must spend time outdoors should drink plenty of fluids.
- ✓ Masks that filter out 95 percent of particles measuring 0.3 micrometers diameter or larger (known as "N95" or "R95" respirators/masks) can be effective if properly fitted to the wearer's face. These can be found at large hardware and home stores. HEPA filter masks are also recommended. Respirators are not intended to be worn for exercise use.

Information will be updated and posted to the District Web site as available at WWW.BCAQMD.ORG and recorded on the Residential Burn HOTLINE at **896-2537** or toll free at **866-240-0859**. The District office number is **891-2882** or **888-891-2882**. Following is the Air Quality Index table for Particle Pollution.

Air Quality Index (AQI): Particle Pollution

Index Values	Levels of Health Concern	Cautionary Statements
0-50	Good	None
51-100*	Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
151-200	Unhealthy	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
201-300	Very Unhealthy	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
301-500	Hazardous	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Everyone else should avoid all physical activity outdoors.

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