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## PRESS RELEASE

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### AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update to notify the public that the high air pollution levels seen throughout the past several weeks have improved throughout the county. However, fires in the North State continue to burn although growth has slowed. As a result there continues to be visible haze and smoke in the county. Air Quality Thursday morning is poor, but conditions are expected to improve later in the day. The recommended activity restrictions issued earlier this week are in effect for sensitive people in the areas that continue to have reduced visibility. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly. The Air Quality Index (AQI) and Visibility Chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. Any value above 100 on the AQI chart is considered unhealthy. The AQI reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average of fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality will reach levels above and below the average.

**Chico:** The AQI for Chico yesterday was **68** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **85**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

**Gridley:** The AQI for Gridley yesterday was **55** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **55**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

**Oroville:** There is not a PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. The District recommends people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. Based on the visibility yesterday the air quality in Oroville was Moderate. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **MODERATE**.

**Paradise:** The AQI for Paradise yesterday was **89** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **170**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

**Magalia:** The AQI for Magalia yesterday was **105** which is considered Unhealthy for Sensitive People. Today the AQI in Magalia is forecast to reach **125**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

Unhealthful air quality conditions may continue in localized areas until the fires are extinguished. Information will be updated and posted to the District Web site as available at [www.bcaqmd.org](http://www.bcaqmd.org) and recorded on the Residential Burn HOTLINE at **896-2537** or toll free at **866-240-0859**. The District office number during regular business hours is **891-2882 or 888-891-2882**.

For questions regarding health concerns relative to the smoke from the wildfires, please contact your personal health care provider or Butte County Public Health Department at **538-7581** or visit their Web site at [www.buttecounty.net/publichealth](http://www.buttecounty.net/publichealth). The District and Butte County Public Health Officer issued a joint a media advisory on July 9<sup>th</sup> with recommendations to reduce health impacts from wildfire smoke. The joint media advisory is posted on the District website under *News and Notices*. An Air Quality Index for Particle Pollution (PM2.5) and Visibility Chart follow.

### Air Quality Index (AQI): Particle Pollution and Visibility Chart

Index Values	Levels of Health Concern	Cautionary Statements	Visibility Range in Miles
0-50	Good	None	10+ miles
51-100*	Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.	5 – 10 miles
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.	3 – 5 miles
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.	1.5 – 2.5 miles
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.	1 – 1.25 miles
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.	< 0.75 miles

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