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## PRESS RELEASE

July 26, 2008

### AIR QUALITY UPDATE

Increased fire activity in Trinity County, light winds and high pressure are responsible for the resurgence in smoke to the county the last few days, even though the fires in Butte County are close to being fully contained. There will continue to be reduced visibility in the county. The recommended activity restrictions issued previously are in effect for the entire area of Butte County. 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 can reach levels above and below the average during the day. The Paradise air quality information and forecast can be used for the Magalia/Upper Ridge area.

**Chico:** The AQI for Chico yesterday was **140** which is considered Unhealthy for sensitive groups. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **150**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

**Gridley:** The AQI for Gridley yesterday was **148** which is considered Unhealthy for sensitive groups. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **125**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

**Oroville:** Yesterday, the monitoring data for Oroville is incomplete. Based on the available information, the air quality was Unhealthy. Today the AQI in Oroville is forecast to reach **160**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY**.

**Paradise:** The AQI for Paradise yesterday was **110** which is considered Unhealthy for sensitive groups. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **130**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

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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