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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 of poor air quality from wildfire smoke that has returned to Butte County after a day of relatively clear skies and healthier conditions. Yesterday's southerly winds have stalled and overnight smoke from the higher elevations was carried into the valley and foothill locations by downslope winds.

Although visible haze in Butte County is expected to continue as a result of wildfires, the outdoor activity-reduction recommendations issued are only in effect for areas in the County that continue to experience high levels of unhealthy air (foothills). The visibility chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area. 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.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. The federal health-based 24-hour average Ambient Air Quality Standard is **35** micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m<sup>3</sup>) for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). Any value above 35 ug/m<sup>3</sup> is considered unhealthy.

**Chico:** The 24-hour average yesterday was **7.9** ug/m<sup>3</sup> which is equal to an Air Quality Index (AQI) of **26** (Good). Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **102**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

**Paradise:** The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday improved to **10.8** ug/m<sup>3</sup> which is equal to an AQI of **35** (Good). With the return of the smoke the air quality has deteriorated, resulting in an AQI for Paradise forecast to be **290 (HAZARDOUS)**.

**Gridley:** The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was **9.4** ug/m<sup>3</sup> which is equal to an AQI of **31** (Good). Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **130**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

**Durham:** The 24-hour average in Durham yesterday was **8.0** ug/m<sup>3</sup> which is equal to an AQI of **26**. Today the AQI in Durham is forecast to reach **139**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

**Oroville:** There is not a PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. Officials recommend people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Unhealthful air quality conditions are expected to 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 Butte County Public Health Department will issue a separate public health advisory. An Air Quality Index for Particle Pollution 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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