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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 continued poor air quality from wildfire smoke. 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/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Any value above 35 ug/m³ is considered unhealthy.

Chico: The 24-hour average yesterday was **39** ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index (AQI) of **98** (Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **130**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Paradise: The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday was **110** ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of **177** (Very Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **301**. At this level the air quality is rated **HAZARDOUS**.

Gridley: The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was **49** ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of **117** (Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **115**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Durham: The 24-hour average in Durham yesterday was **50** ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of **120**. Today the AQI in Durham is forecast to reach **125**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} 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 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. 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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