



Air Quality Forecast and Caution - Issued

Date/Time Issued: Friday, September 11, 2020/2:30 p.m.

Next Update: Monday, September 14, 2020/3:00 p.m.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has issued an **Air Quality Forecast and Caution** to notify residents of **Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley and Washington County** of degraded air quality. Due to wildfire smoke, **BURNING RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT**. Air quality is forecast to be in the **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS*** category and is anticipated to remain in the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups through the weekend. Hourly levels are expected to range from the Moderate (Yellow) to the Unhealthy (Red) categories through the day with higher values in the morning and evening hours. **Note: air quality may fluctuate with slight changes in weather conditions and fire behavior and may improve temporarily with daily weather patterns.** The pollutant of concern is Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5).

Woodstove Burning Restrictions

Residential wood burning activities are restricted. This burn ban will remain in effect until air quality has improved in accordance with local ordinances.

Outdoor Burning Restrictions

All outdoor open burning is prohibited by the Department of Environmental Quality in accordance with the Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho (IDAPA 58.01.01.550).

Health Impacts and Recommended Actions

When air quality is unhealthy for sensitive groups, sensitive persons* may experience health effects and should limit prolonged or heavy exertion and limit time spent outdoors. The general public is unlikely to be affected.

Contact

For more information, contact DEQ's Regional Office in Boise at (208) 373-0550.

For real-time air monitoring information, visit DEQ's website at airquality.deq.idaho.gov.

For more information concerning local ordinances contact your local city or county.

Air Quality Index (AQI):

Range	Category	Meaning
0 to 50	Good	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk
51 to 100	Moderate	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups*	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.
301 to 500	Hazardous	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.

For more information on the AQI, visit http://www.epa.gov/airnow/aqi_brochure_02_14.pdf.

For more information about wildfire smoke, visit Idaho's Smoke Blog at idsmoke.blogspot.com.

* Sensitive groups include those with heart and lung disease, older adults, and children.