



Air Pollution Forecast and Caution - Extended

Date/Time Issued: **Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 02:30 p.m.**

Next Update: **Friday, September 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has extended an **Air Pollution Forecast and Caution** to notify residents of **Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah and Shoshone counties outside of reservation boundaries** of degraded air quality. Due to wildfire smoke health impacts may occur, **BURNING RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT**. Air quality is currently in the **UNHEALTHY** category and is forecast to **persist in the UNHEALTHY category through Friday**. **Note: air quality is likely to change drastically 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).

Health Impacts and Recommended Actions

When air quality is unhealthy, everyone may begin to experience health effects. Members of sensitive groups* may experience more serious effects & should avoid prolonged/heavy exertion & stay indoors. Everyone else should limit prolonged/heavy exertion & limit time outdoors.

Woodstove Burning Restrictions

Voluntary burn ban for residential wood burning activities.

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).

Contact

For more information, contact DEQ's Regional Office in Twin Falls at (208) 736-2190.

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
	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.