



# Air Pollution Forecast and Caution - Extended

Date/Time Issued: **Friday, September 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.**

Next Update: **Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has issued an **Air Pollution Forecast and Caution** to notify residents of **Boundary, Bonner, Benewah, Kootenai and Shoshone counties** 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 continue to be degraded for another day. The pollutant of concern is Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5).

## Health Impacts and Recommended Actions

When air quality is very unhealthy, the entire population is more likely to be affected. Sensitive persons\* should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion and stay indoors.

## 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).

## Contact

For more information, contact DEQ's Regional Office in Coeur d'Alene at (208) 769-1422.

For real-time air monitoring information, visit DEQ's website at [airquality.deq.idaho.gov](http://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](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](http://idsmoke.blogspot.com).

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