



North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District
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News Release: Wildfire Information for Schools

The North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD) and the Humboldt and Trinity County Departments of Health and Human Services Public Health Branches would like to help you prepare in the event of wildfires.

Attached to this announcement is a handout, "Protecting Your Family from Wildfire Smoke". Please consider distributing it to students at your school, if appropriate.

Children are more sensitive to smoke because their lungs are still developing. This is true even for children without any pre-existing illness or chronic conditions. Children tend to spend more time outside; they engage in more vigorous activity; and they inhale more air (and therefore more particles) per pound of body weight. Studies have shown that pollution from smoke is associated with coughing and difficulty breathing. These symptoms can continue even after the smoke event is over, resulting in school absences and limitations of normal childhood activities.

When unhealthy or hazardous air quality conditions are known to exist, Air Quality Alerts are issued by the NCUAQMD. They are issued for specific locations. If your school is located within a region impacted by wildfire smoke, please watch for Air Quality Alerts. Alerts can be heard by calling 1-866-Burn-Day. They can also be accessed on the NCUAQMD website, www.ncuaqmd.org.

The NCUAQMD also has a School Wildfire Distribution list for emailing the Air Quality Alerts. Contact the NCUAQMD at 707-443-3093, to add appropriate school staff to the School Wildfire Distribution list. There is an additional list being compiled for schools holding summer school sessions on their campus. If your school will be holding summer session, please call or email the NCUAQMD with the name of a contact person.