



# CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Air Quality Advisory Issued

### Wednesday through Friday

Date issued:  
Wednesday, August 16, 2023

**Air Quality Alert** issued Wednesday through Friday for portions of the Colville Reservation within Okanogan County. Particulate matter (PM2.5) levels has reach **Unhealthy levels**, and even healthy people may begin to experience health effects from smoke.

**Where is the smoke coming from?** Numerous wild-fires in the North Washington Cascades and southern British Columbia have become much more active in the past 24 hours, producing high amounts of smoke. The Ridge Creek Fire near Hayden Lake, ID also continues to produce smoke.

- Wednesday through Thursday—west-northwest winds will result in smoke and haze over much of the region. This will be especially true over northern Washington.
- Friday—a dry cold front swinging through BC and northern WA has the potential to aggravate fires further. A wind shift to northwest winds has a good potential for bringing Canadian smoke into the region into Saturday.

Smoke concentrations vary by time of day, wind velocity and fire activity. New fire starts could increase levels of health concerns.

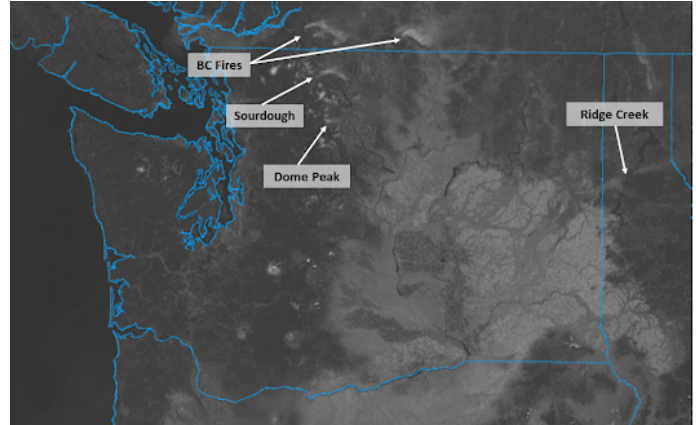
### Health Impacts and Recommended Actions:

**People with heart or lung disease, older adults, children and teens** – take any of these steps to reduce your exposure:

- Avoid strenuous outdoor activities.
- Keep outdoor activities short.
- Consider moving physical activities indoors or rescheduling them.

**Everyone else** – take any of these steps to reduce your exposure:

- Choose less strenuous activities (like walking instead of running) so you don't breathe as hard.
- Shorten the amount of time you are active outdoors. Be active outdoors when air quality is better.



AIR QUALITY INDEX (Short version)

Levels of Health Concern	Levels of Health Concern
<b>Unhealthy</b>	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.

### Here is a check list to help protect yourself and your family:

- Keep window and doors closed
- Run air conditioner unit set to re-circulate and the fresh-air intake closed or turn them off
- Use a high-efficiency particulate (HEPA) air filter in your AC unit if possible
- Use room size portable air cleaners to remove smoke that enters your home. You may need multiple units to be effective.
- Selecting a primary entrance for all to use to limit door usage.
- Stay hydrated by **DRINKING LOTS OF WATER.**
- Replace old air filters with new a new air filter.

**Washington State Department of Health** provides information on impacts of wildfire smoke to human health  
<https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/air-quality/smoke-fires>

**Useful website to track fires and smoke:** Washington State, including links to federal, state and local agencies:

- <http://wasmoke.blogspot.com>
- <https://www.airnow.gov/>