



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Joint Information Center

415-558-2712, 415-558-2776, dempres@sfgov.org

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

**City and County of San Francisco Anticipates Red Level Air Quality
Thursday, October 12th and Encourages Public to Take Health Precautions**

San Francisco, CA – It is expected that San Francisco is likely to experience a Red Level air quality day tomorrow, Thursday, October 12, 2017 due to the wildfires in the North Bay. Red Level air quality means the air is unhealthy. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.

Expected Air Quality Index Level

Good	Moderate	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Unhealthy	Very Unhealthy	Hazardous
	Current Level for 10/11/17		Expected Level for 10/12/17		

Follow these precautions to protect your health:

- Minimize outdoor activities
- Stay indoors with windows and doors closed as much as possible
- Do not run fans that bring smoky outdoor air inside
- Run your air-conditioner only if it does not bring smoke in from the outdoors
- Consider leaving the area until smoke conditions improve if you experience symptoms related to smoke exposure

People in San Francisco can go to the following San Francisco Public Libraries to find respite from the poor air quality caused by the North Bay fires. These locations have air filters:

- San Francisco Main Library, 100 Larkin St., 9:00 am to 8:00 pm
- Chinatown Branch Library, 1135 Powell Street, 10:00 am to 9:00 pm
- Mission Bay Branch Library, 960 Fourth Street, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Glen Park Branch Library, 2825 Diamond Street, 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- Southeast Community Facility/City College of San Francisco Library, 1800 Oakdale Avenue, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Contact your health care provider if you experience the following symptoms. As always, if you or someone you know is experiencing a live-threatening emergency, call 9-1-1:

- Repeated coughing
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Wheezing
- Chest tightness or pain
- Palpitations
- Nausea or unusual fatigue
- Lightheadedness

The public can find the current Air Quality from the EPA here and learn what to do: https://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=airnow.local_city&cityid=317

Due to active wildfires and changing wind patterns, air quality could be impacted for many days to come. Outside of the active fire areas, air quality will be variable and unpredictable. Air quality may improve at times or get worse, very quickly.

Air Quality Index Levels:

Air Quality Index	What Should I Do?
Good 0-50	It's a great day to be active outside.
Moderate 51-100	<p>Unusually sensitive people: Consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion. Watch for symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath. These are signs to take it easier.</p> <p>Everyone else: It's a good day to be active outside.</p>
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups 101-150	<p>Sensitive groups:* Reduce prolonged or heavy exertion. It's OK to be active outside, but take more breaks and do less intense activities. Watch for symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath.</p> <p>People with asthma should follow their asthma action plans and keep quick relief medicine handy.</p> <p>If you have heart disease: Symptoms such as palpitations, shortness of breath, or unusual fatigue may indicate a serious problem. If you have any of these, contact your health care provider.</p>

Unhealthy 151 to 200	Sensitive groups: * <i>Avoid</i> prolonged or heavy exertion. Move activities indoors or reschedule to a time when the air quality is better. Everyone else: <i>Reduce</i> prolonged or heavy exertion. Take more breaks during all outdoor activities.
Very Unhealthy 201-300	Sensitive groups: * <i>Avoid all</i> physical activity outdoors. Move activities indoors or reschedule to a time when air quality is better. Everyone else: <i>Avoid</i> prolonged or heavy exertion. Consider moving activities indoors or rescheduling to a time when air quality is better.
Hazardous 301-500	Everyone: <i>Avoid all</i> physical activity outdoors. Sensitive groups: * Remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Follow tips for keeping particle levels low indoors.

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