



MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Executive Office (707) 463-4441

TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA

FR: PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER and MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Ukiah, California: July 30, 2018



Left: surgical mask. Right: N-95 mask. **A surgical mask will NOT protect your lungs from wildfire smoke.**

Public Health Advisory – Mendocino Complex Fire

Smoke and haze from the wildfires in Mendocino and Lake Counties are impacting the air quality and reducing visibility. The dry, hot climate makes the situation much more precarious. Air quality changes depending on the winds, but has deteriorated due to the presence of the smoke.

Currently air monitors show particulate matter concentrations in the 'Healthy' to 'Hazardous' ranges for different areas of inland Mendocino County. While surrounding wildfires are active, expect prolonged smoke impacts to our air quality.

If you need a protective mask, they are available at the Ukiah, Willits, and Covelo library branches. An “N-95” type mask fits closely on your face and filters out the airborne particles in the smoke. Masks are available free of charge.

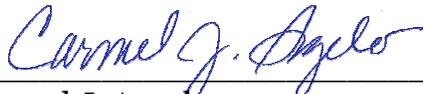
According to Mendocino County’s Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace, M.D., “Heavy smoke can pose a danger to everyone. If you can smell or taste smoke, or experience itchy eyes or a scratchy throat, this is unhealthy and you should stay indoors as much as possible. Those

with heart or lung disease, including asthma, should consider leaving areas of heavy smoke if possible. If not, individuals with these health conditions should stay indoors with doors and windows closed as much as possible. In heavy smoke, everyone should avoid unnecessary strenuous outdoor activity.”

Persons experiencing any of the following symptoms should contact a health care provider: Headache; Repeated Coughing; Chest Tightness or Pain; Difficulty in Breathing; or Nausea.

For the complete schedule of open hours at each Library Branch, please see <https://www.mendolibrary.org/locations>

Real time updates are being made on the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/MendocinoSheriff/>) and Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/mendosheriff>).

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