



NEWS RELEASE

*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

September 8, 2020

Wildfire Smoke & Hazardous Air Quality

Take Precautions to Reduce Exposure to Smoke

OKANOGAN – Public Health officials urge Okanogan County residents to take precautions due to the wildfire smoke and hazardous air quality conditions.

At 7:00 am on September 8th, the Department of Ecology was reporting:

- Hazardous air quality in the Omak area, and
- Unhealthy air quality in the Methow Valley

Unfortunately, the south county area does not have air quality reported on the Department of Ecology website.

Wildfire smoke can cause serious health problems, especially for at risk people including: children, pregnant women, adults older than 65, and people with heart and lung diseases or respiratory illnesses.

The best way to protect your and your family's health during a wildfire is to limit time spent outdoors. The following are steps you can take to improve the air quality inside your home:

- Keep windows and doors closed to avoid smoky air from coming inside;
- Avoid bringing outdoor air inside by setting air conditioner(s) to "recirculate";
- Avoid adding indoor air pollution and do not vacuum, use candles, or smoke; and
- Use a portable air cleaner with a HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filter.

Stay informed of the latest wildfires and air quality information by visiting the [Washington Smoke Blog](#). Remain aware of smoky conditions and follow the precautions stated in the [Washington Air Quality Advisory](#).