



STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

---

This forecast was prepared by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to provide wildfire smoke and air quality information to state, tribal, and federal agencies who respond to wildfire smoke events. Air quality advisories issued by DEQ are not applicable to the five Indian reservations in Idaho. Contact information for participating agencies and links to air quality monitoring and advisory information can be found at the Idaho Smoke Information Blog <http://idsmoke.blogspot.com/>.

---

**Updated 11am MDT Thursday, August 5, 2016**

**Valid through Noon MDT Monday, August 8, 2016**

### **Smoke Outlook**

Air quality is forecast to continue to remain in the Good to Moderate air quality category across the state today. Idaho City is currently reading in the Unhealthy category. Moderate impacts are evident today across all of southern Idaho from the Treasure Valley into Ketchum, east to Idaho Falls and Salmon and south into Franklin. In north Idaho, monitor readings are currently in the Moderate category in the Lewiston area. Expect higher readings in the evening and early morning before improving during the day.

Today, an upper level lower pressure system will approach from the west while a mid-level system will move in from northern California which will bring monsoon moisture and general instability into Idaho. Wind speeds will be in the 5-10 mph range, with variable direction across the state but generally from the south and southeast today. Wind directions at higher speeds will be primarily from the southeast to southwest with northeast winds in north Idaho. There is a chance for late afternoon-evening thunderstorms along the rim of the Snake River Plain, particularly in the Southwest and Southern Highlands where there is a Red Flag Warning. For the weekend, a southwest flow pattern with locally northwest winds within the Treasure Valley will develop at 5-10 mph with gusts to 20 mph by Sunday. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms are likely across the higher terrain around the Snake River Plain with storms likely leaking into the area.

Smoke impacts today are expected to be more localized with the cooler temperatures and lighter wind speeds; however, areas near thunderstorms will experience erratic and gusty winds. Brief periods of heavy, localized smoke should be expected in the morning before the inversion lifts around 12noon today. The regions that should expect to see smoke this evening include the Upper Snake River Plain to the Island Park area and the Upper Treasure Valley. South winds and east winds will bring smoke into the Southeast Highlands and Teton Valley as well. The Southeast Highlands and north into the Snake River Plain should expect to see smoke tonight and through the weekend into Monday. Expect much of the same this weekend as the weather pattern remains similar through Monday's southwest transport, afternoon thunderstorms and nocturnal smoke impacts within drainages.

**DEQ Air Quality Forecast and Cautions:**

- The Idaho Falls Regional Office has issued a Stage 1 Forecast and Caution for **Custer County**. Valid through Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Significant Fires Affecting Idaho:

Incident/Loc.	Size/Growth/Containment					Fuels	Fire activity	Cause/Start Date
<b><u>Cedar Fire</u></b> 2 Miles Northwest of Elk Summit	1,371 ac		Unkn	Cnt.	Unkn	Timber and grass	Single and group tree torching with short uphill crown runs. Managed for resource benefit	17-Jul-16  Lightning
<b><u>Cliff Creek Fire</u></b> 5 Miles North of Bondurant, WY	31,169 ac	1,492 ac	84%	Cnt.	9/30	Timber, brush, and grass	Moderate fire behavior with group torching.	17-Jul-16  Lightning
<b><u>Pioneer</u></b> 5 Miles North of Idaho City	51,903 ac	1,666 ac	27%	Cnt.	9/15	Timber	Active fire behavior with group torching, spotting, and running	18-Jul-16  Undetermined
<b><u>Roaring Lion</u></b> 5 Miles southwest of Hamilton, MT	7,753 ac	624 ac	15%	Cnt.	9/1	Timber and grass	Moderate fire behavior.	31-Jul-16  Undetermined
<b><u>Rail Fire</u></b> 10 Miles Southwest of Unity, Or	6,549 ac	973 ac	5%	Cnt.	8/31	Timber	Moderate fire behavior with single tree torching, flanking and creeping.	31-Jul-16  Undetermined
<b><u>Broad Mouth</u></b> 15 Miles Northwest of Tremonton, UT	15,000 ac	14,000 ac	30%	Cnt.	8/16	Brush and grass	Active fire behavior with group torching, spotting and running.	Undetermined  Undetermined

View real time smoke monitoring at: [http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=topics.smoke\\_wildfires](http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=topics.smoke_wildfires)

View DEQ near-real time monitoring at: <http://airquality.deq.idaho.gov/>

The USFS installed monitors near Stanley, Idaho and Lowman, Idaho. Idaho DEQ has installed temporary monitors in Fairfield and Boise (Garden City), Idaho. The information can be found at <http://smoke.airfire.org/monitoringReport/#/?date=LATEST&productType=plotTable>.

- Stanley, ID monitor is Stanley-Idaho 75
- Lowman, ID monitor is Lowman-Jolene Drive

- Fairfield, ID monitor is Fairfield-Soldier Road
- Boise, ID monitor is Garden City-Alworth Street

## Monitoring Summary-Yesterday's Air Quality

Below is a summary for the air quality for yesterday (This information includes monitoring information for areas outside the 5 Indian Reservation Boundaries in Idaho unless otherwise specified).

8/4/2016					
	PM <sub>2.5</sub> maximum concentration (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )				PM <sub>2.5</sub> AQI
Monitor/Location	1-hr	3-hr	8-hr	24-hr	24-hr
DEQ Coeur d'Alene Regional Office					
Lancaster	10	7	7	5	19
Sandpoint	7	6	5	4	17
St Maries	19	12	8	7	27
Pinehurst	7	6	5	4	17
Mt. Hall					
Porthill					
Coeur d'Alene Tribe					
Plummer	26	11	6	5	26
Kootenai Tribe					
Bonnars Ferry	7	7	7	6	26
DEQ Lewiston Regional Office					
Juliaetta	12	10	9	8	33
Moscow	6	6	6	4	16
Potlatch	14	13	10	9	35
Lewiston	43	26	15	7	30
Grangeville	13	11	9	6	24
Cottonwood	10	9	9	8	34
Nez Perce Tribe					
Lapwai	7	6	5	4	15
Reubens	234	100	43	15	58
Kamiah	7	8	9	6	25
DEQ Boise Regional Office					
McCall	24	15	8	4	15

Idaho City	72	65	46	24	76
Garden Valley	9	7	6	5	19
Weiser	5	5	4	4	16
Nampa	43	23	15	10	43
Meridian	19	16	13	7	27
DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office					
Ketchum	24	20	18	13	54
Twin Falls	35	24	14	9	39
Paul	14	13	10	8	32
DEQ Pocatello Regional Office					
Pocatello	8	6	5	4	18
Soda Springs					
Franklin	29	26	19	14	55
DEQ Idaho Falls Regional Office					
Idaho Falls	33	32	27	15	58
Salmon	21	18	15	11	45
Rexburg	11	10	8	6	24
Fire Cache Monitors					
Stanley	189	185	118	140	195
Lowman	131	109	79	68	158
Fairfield	43	42	29	24	75
Boise - Garden City	23	19	19	20	68

Smoke forecasts are dependent on predicted fire growth and weather. If conditions change unexpectedly, impacts could occur. When visibility starts to go below 5 miles, sensitive groups should minimize outdoor activities. Everyone else should minimize prolonged or physical activity outdoors. Visit the Idaho Smoke Blog for more information at <http://idsmoke.blogspot.com/>

**Your eyes are your best tools to determine if it's safe to be outside.** Even if you smell smoke, the air quality may still be good.

<b>AQI Category</b>	<b>Visibility (miles)</b>
Good	11+
Moderate	6-10
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	3-5
Unhealthy	1½ - 2¾
Very Unhealthy	1-1¼
Hazardous	Less than 1

**How to estimate air quality based on visibility for areas without an air quality monitor or airport visibility estimate:**

- a. Face away from the sun.
- b. Determine the limit of your visible range by looking for targets at known distances (miles).
- c. Visible range is when an object you can easily see in the distance disappears.
- d. Use the visibility values above to determine the local wildfire smoke category.