



TULE RIVER TRIBE PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY

Announcement

Dear Tule River Indian Reservation,

Due to the [several wildfires](#) in the area, the Public Health Authority wishes to inform you of the health dangers of smoke and suggest strategies to limit your exposure. The [forecast](#) for the air quality for the reservation is **UNHEALTHY** to **VERY UNHEALTHY** for September 15-17, 2020. See next page for details. Please take precautions accordingly.

Wildfire smoke is unhealthy because it contains fine particles which are respiratory irritants, and when inhaled deeply, can affect the lungs and the heart. Exposure to high concentrations of fine particles can cause persistent cough, runny nose, phlegm, wheezing, and difficulty breathing. Older adults, young children, pregnant women, and people with heart diseases or lung diseases (such as asthma) may be especially sensitive to health risks from wildfire smoke. If you are in one of these categories, consider *limiting your outdoor activities in the next few days*.

It is important to note how symptoms of smoke exposure differ from COVID-19. While cough, runny nose, phlegm, wheezing, and difficulty breathing are similar to symptoms of COVID-19, fever or chills, muscle or body aches, and diarrhea are signs of COVID-19 and are not related to smoke exposure.

To limit exposure to smoke, we recommend the following:

- **Remaining indoors as much as possible**, especially limiting outdoor physical activity as much possible
- **Reducing indoor air pollution sources** by effectively using air conditioners and air filters or cleaners, and limiting use of swamp coolers
- **Using respiratory protection appropriately**, such as a NIOSH-certified K95, N95 or P100 particulate respirator that fits closely to the face

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Tule River Indian Health Clinic, Inc at 559-784-2316. If you are having an emergency, please call 911.

Sincerely,

Eric Coles

Date

September 16, 2020

Eric Coles, DrPH
Tribal Public Health Officer
Tule River Indian Reservation



Smoke Outlook for 9/16 - 9/17
Southern Sierra - Sequoia : SQF Complex
 Issued at: 2020-09-16 08:04 PDT

Fire

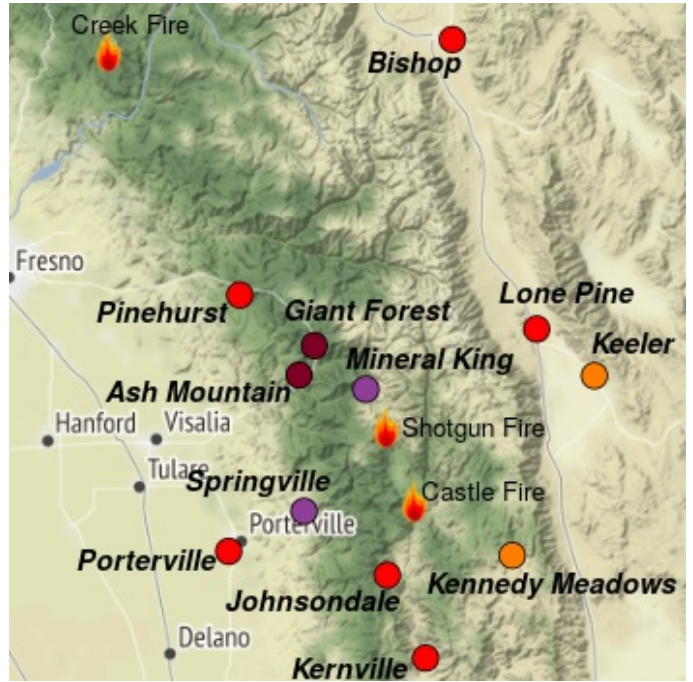
Yesterday was a very active fire day. Current size is 113,498 acres. New fire growth was 7,219 acres. This was the 3rd day of substantial fire growth. Containment still remains at 12%. Today and thru Saturday, the fire will be "extremely active". Over this time it is expected that fire growth will expand significantly day or night. Fire activity starts early as RH recovery was very poor. The S perimeter still holds. The E perimeter continues to be improved. The W perimeter is constantly under adjustment due to fire growth. Fire info, visit inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7048

Smoke

Yesterday, smoke within Outlook area was mostly Unhealthy. The exception was Keeler and Kennedy Meadows. Today thru Saturday, smoke's effect on air quality is projected to deteriorate further. The Tule River and Kerr River drainages serve as major conduits for smoke travel into lower elevations. With S-SW ridge winds, most of the smoke stays in the Sierras. This smoke production period is exceptionally high.

Special Notes

Outlooks reflect particulate matter impacts on air quality. Review your closest monitoring station when planning outdoor activities. Roadway Visibility can be affected. Drive with care.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Sep 16, 2020

Station	Yesterday hourly	Tue 9/15	Forecast* Comment for Today -- Wed, Sep 16	Wed 9/16	Thu 9/17
Pinehurst		●	Overall Unhealthy today,	●	●
Giant Forest		●	Overall Hazardous today,	●	●
Ash Mountain		●	Overall Hazardous today,	●	●
Mineral King		●	Overall Very Unhealthy today,	●	●
Springville	No hourly data	●	Overall Very Unhealthy today, may improve briefly late afternoon	●	●
Porterville		●	Overall Unhealthy today, varies thru day	●	●
Johnsondale		●	Overall Unhealthy today,	●	●
Kernville		●	Overall Unhealthy,	●	●
Kennedy Meadows		●	Overall USG today,	●	●
Keeler		●	Overall USG today, improves noon to 4 PM, then deteriorates	●	●
Lone Pine		●	Overall Unhealthy today, improves noon to 4 PM, then deteriorates	●	●
Bishop		●	Overall Unhealthy today,	●	●

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Air Quality Index (AQI)	Actions to Protect Yourself
● Good	None
● Moderate	Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion.
● USG	People within Sensitive Groups* should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.
● Unhealthy	People within Sensitive Groups* should avoid all physical outdoor activity.
● Very Unhealthy	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
● Hazardous	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity.

***Disclaimer:** This forecast is based on fine particulates only; ozone is not included. Forecasts may be wrong; use at own risk. Use caution as conditions can change quickly. See your health professional as needed. Smoke sensitive groups should take appropriate precautions.

Additional Links

- California Smoke Blog -- <http://californiasmokeinfo.blogspot.com/>
- San Joaquin APCD -- <http://www.valleyair.org>
- Fire and Smoke Map -- <https://fire.airnow.gov/#>
- Eastern Kern APCD -- <http://www.kernair.org>
- Great Basin Unified APCD -- <https://www.gbuapcd.org/>



Issued by USFS Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program -- www.wildlandfiresmoke.net
 Southern Sierra - Sequoia Current Outlook -- tools.airfire.org/outlooks/SouthernSierra-Sequoia
 *Smoke and Health Info -- www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=smoke.index