

# County of Placer

## Public Information Office

175 Fulweiler Avenue, Auburn, California 95603  
Main 530-889-4030 | Fax: 530-889-4023  
Email: [piostaff@placer.ca.gov](mailto:piostaff@placer.ca.gov)  
[www.placer.ca.gov](http://www.placer.ca.gov)



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Contact: Mike Fitch or Robert Miller at 530-886-5310

### **SMOKE ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT, PUBLIC HEALTH CONSULTING WITH SCHOOLS**

Placer County public health officials said Monday that a smoke-related Air Quality Advisory remains in effect, emphasizing that they are working closely with school officials on whether to close schools in communities most affected by smoke from the King Fire.

"We were monitoring air quality with the Placer County Air Pollution Control District and the schools all weekend," explained Dr. Robert Oldham, Placer County's public health officer. "Early this morning, we recommended closure of schools in the Colfax and Foresthill areas based up hazardous levels of fine particulate matter in the air over the last 24 hours. We are also recommending cancellation of all outdoor activities today in the Squaw Valley, Truckee, Auburn, Colfax, and Foresthill areas."

"We are reviewing data and conditions on a frequent basis and will provide recommendations regarding schools and outdoor activities as needed," said Placer County Air Pollution Control Officer Tom Christofk.

They issued a joint Air Quality Advisory Friday to notify the public of health risks posed by poor air quality conditions due to smoke from the King Fire, burning in the El Dorado and Tahoe National Forests northeast of Foresthill.

Widespread smoky conditions will affect Placer County from the valley to the Lake Tahoe area, depending upon the wind direction, until the fire is extinguished.

All areas of the County are at risk of being impacted by smoke at any time as daytime and evening winds shift.

The major air pollutant of concern, found in wildfire smoke, is fine particulate matter also known as PM2.5. While all persons may experience varying degrees of symptoms, the more sensitive individuals, such as the young, aged and those with respiratory conditions are of greater risk of experiencing more aggravated symptoms. These may include, but are not limited to coughing, watery and itchy eyes, scratchy throat, and difficulty in breathing.

*If you can see or smell smoke, consider altering your outdoor activities until air quality for your location improves:*

Here are recommended ways to reduce your smoke exposure:

- Stay indoors with the windows and doors closed; run the air conditioner on the “recirculation” setting;
- Limit outdoor exertion and physical activity;
- Leave smoke- impacted areas until conditions improve, if possible;
- Reduce unnecessary driving. If traveling through smoke-impacted areas, be sure that your vehicle’s ventilation system is on re-circulate; and
- Avoid the use of non-HEPA paper face mask filters, which are not capable of filtering out extra fine particulates.

Persons experiencing questionable or severe symptoms should contact their doctors if they have any questions.

Keep in mind that air quality can change throughout the day as the wind shifts. It is therefore important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly.

Updates on the King Fire can be found at [www.placer.ca.gov](http://www.placer.ca.gov) and information on air quality and smoke, including access to real-time air quality monitors, can be found at [www.placer.ca.gov/apcd](http://www.placer.ca.gov/apcd).

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