

Notifications & Alerts



It is important to know how you will get public health warnings, including air quality reports and public service announcements (PSAs).



Visit <https://www.airnow.gov/> or download the AirNow app to see the current and forecasted air quality in your area.



South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has detailed alerts with wind patterns and specific effected area information <http://www.aqmd.gov/>. You can even sign up to get alerts emailed to you.

Like and Follow the Morongo Environmental Protection Department on social media to get updated alerts that could affect the Morongo Reservation.



@MorongoEPD



@morongoepd

Resources

<https://www.secondnature.com/blog/company-news/smoke-pollution-relief-effort>

<https://www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health/fires-and-your-health/>

EPA Wildfire Smoke Facts Sheets
<https://morongonation.org/images/pdf/Wildfire%20Smoke%20Fact%20Sheets.pdf>

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Are You Smoke Ready?



MORONGO
BAND OF
MISSION
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A SOVEREIGN NATION

*Environmental Protection
Department*

Tribal Air Program

Effects of Smoke on Health



The biggest health threat from smoke is from fine particles, which can get into your eyes and respiratory system, where they can cause health problems such as burning eyes, runny nose, and illnesses such as bronchitis. They can also aggravate chronic heart and lung diseases, and even are linked to premature deaths in people with these conditions.

Air Quality Index (AQI)



The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a way to determine the current air quality. The higher the AQI value, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern.

Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern	Values of Index	Description of Air Quality
Green	Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Purple	Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Maroon	Hazardous	301 +	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.

Prepare for Wildfire Season



Here are some easy things that can help in preparing for wildfire season.

Before a Wildfire



- Stock up so you don't have to go out when it's smoky. Have groceries on hand that do not need to be refrigerated or cooked, which can add to indoor air pollution.
- Create a "clean room" in your home. Choose a room with no fireplace, and as few windows/doors as possible. Use a portable air cleaner in the room.
- Buy or make a portable air cleaner, and have it prepared before the smoke event.

During a Wildfire



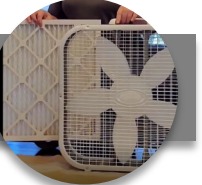
- Follow instructions from local officials to keep yourself and your family safe.
- Stay Inside with the doors and windows closed. Run your air conditioner with the fresh-air intake closed to keep smoke from getting indoors.
- If you have chronic conditions, talk to your healthcare provider about specific precautions or when you need to leave an area in a wildfire.
- Do not add to indoor air pollution. Do not burn candles or use gas, propane, wood-burning stoves, fireplaces, or aerosol sprays. Do not fry or broil meat, smoke tobacco products, or vacuum.

Air Filtration



These are some items you can buy and make to help protect you from smoke.

Indoor Air Filtration



It is important to try to stay indoors during a smoke event. There are two effective options for improving air filtration in the home. These options generally use HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) rated, or MERV (Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value) ratings.

- Upgrade the central air system filter. Replace the filter with a medium (MERV 5-8), high (MERV 9-12), true high (MERV 13-16), or highest (MERV 17-20) efficiency filter.
- Use a high efficiency portable air cleaner. These self-contained air filtration appliances can be used alone or with enhanced central air filtration to effectively remove particles.

The portable air cleaners can be costly, so another option is to make your own Homemade Box Fan Filter. The instructions can be found in our DIY Box Fan Filter flyer https://morongonation.org/images/pdf/DIY_Box_Fan.pdf and video https://morongonation.org/videos/DIY_Box_Fan_Filter.mp4

Personal Protection



If you must go outside, consider protecting yourself by using a filtered mask. An N95 respirator can protect you if it fits snugly to your face and is worn properly. These are not recommended for children.