



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2008

**A JOINT AIR QUALITY ADVISORY ISSUED BY THE
BUTTE COUNTY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
AND
BUTTE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

To:

Public Safety Personnel
News Media
County/City Officials
County Health Officer
Local/State Law & Fire Federal
Butte County & City Managers

School Officials
Sac. Valley Air Basin Coordinating Council
Adjacent Air Quality Management Districts
California Air Resources Board
Environmental Protection Agency
Local Hospitals

From: W. James Wagoner, Air Pollution Control Officer
Dr. Mark Lundberg, MD, Health Officer

The Butte County Air Quality Management District Air Pollution Control Officer, and the Butte County Public Health Officer are issuing this Air Quality Advisory to notify the public of poor air quality conditions in the Butte College and Paradise Ridge area due to smoke from the Humboldt fire. These conditions are expected to continue until the fire is extinguished.

The major air pollutant of concern 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 greatest risk at experiencing more aggravated symptoms which may include, but are not limited to coughing, watery and itchy eyes, and difficulty in breathing.

Persons experiencing questionable or severe symptoms should seek professional medical advice and treatment.

The following actions are recommended during the poor air quality periods:

- Limit outdoor exertion by children, students and adults;
- Reduction in travel including unnecessary driving;
- Avoid the use of non-HEPA paper face mask filters which are not capable of filtering extra fine particulates; and
- The public should avoid the fire areas.

Questions and requests for recommendations concerning specialized outdoor events and school activities may be directed to the Butte County Air Quality Management District at **891-2882** during regular business hours.

This notification will remain in effect until further notice. In addition, all open burning is prohibited during this period.

Information will be updated and posted to the District website as available at WWW.BCAQMD.ORG.

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June 13, 2008

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BUTTE COUNTY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
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From: W. James Wagoner, Air Pollution Control Officer
Dr. Mark Lundberg, MD, Health Officer

The Butte County Air Quality Management District Air Pollution Control Officer, and the Butte County Public Health Officer are issuing this Air Quality Advisory to notify the public of localized areas of hazardous air quality conditions in Butte County due to smoke from the Humboldt fire. These conditions are expected to continue until the fire is extinguished.

Smoke from wildfires and structure fires contain significant quantities of irritating chemicals. Residents may experience symptoms during and after being exposure to smoke from the wildfire, including eye irritation, throat irritation, and coughing. Some people with existing heart and lung disease, including asthma, may experience heightened symptoms. Even healthy people may experience some of these symptoms in smoky conditions. Seek medical help if you experience symptoms that worsen or become severe.

Recommendations for Minimizing Smoke Exposure

- ✓ Stay indoors with windows and doors closed; run air-conditioner on "recirculate" setting. Do not run swamp coolers.
- ✓ Minimize or stop outdoor activities, especially exercise, during smoky conditions.
- ✓ People in a "high risk" group or those who cannot find adequate shelter from the smoke outside may need to move to a emergency shelter.
- ✓ Masks that filter out 95% of particles measuring 0.3 micrometers diameter or larger (called "N95" or "R95" masks) can be effective if properly fitted to the wearer's face. These can be found at large hardware and home stores. HEPA filter masks are recommended.

Public officials may take other precautions, including closing school and businesses, cancelling public events, and calling for evacuation. If you are evacuated, make sure to drive with the windows rolled up and the air conditioner on “recirculate.” Masks may also be worn when in transit to shelters to minimize smoke exposure.

With these fire and wind conditions, it’s especially important for people with asthma or other respiratory diseases or heart conditions to monitor their health and consult with their health care providers if their symptoms worsen. Individuals with respiratory illness should consider leaving the area until air quality conditions improve.

Stayed tuned for emergency announcements on radio and TV about air quality and any calls for evacuations.

The following index will assist in assessing the air quality based on the visibility in your area. To assess visibility:

- Face away from the sun. Determine visibility range by looking for targets that are at known distances (miles).
- The visible range is the point where even high-contrast objects disappear.
- After determining visibility in miles use the following Wildfire Smoke Visibility Index to assess air quality.

Visibility Range	Health Category	Health Effects
10+ miles	Good	None
5 – 10 miles	Moderate	Usually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
3 – 5 miles	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Sensitive people should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
1.5 – 2.5 miles	Unhealthy	Sensitive people should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
1 – 1.25 miles	Very Unhealthy	Very Unhealthy Sensitive people should avoid all physical activity outdoors Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
<0.75 miles	Hazardous	Sensitive people should remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Everyone else should avoid all physical activity outdoors.

Information will be updated and posted to the District website as available at WWW.BCAQMD.ORG.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

June 14, 2008

The Butte County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) is issuing this voluntary health advisory for Butte County due to the current poor air quality conditions resulting from the Humboldt fire. While air quality conditions have improved the Air Quality Advisory issued yesterday remains in effect. Based on the ambient particulate matter levels at the monitoring sites and visual observations, some localized areas of the County continue to experience smoke impacts from the wildfires. These conditions are expected to continue until the fires are extinguished. The Air Quality Index today for fine particulate matter PM2.5 is projected to reach unhealthy levels for sensitive groups. People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should limit prolonged outdoor exertion. If you can see and smell smoke, limit any outdoor exertion.

The AQMD has designated today a "no-burn day" throughout the county due to poor air quality conditions. Information will be updated and posted to the District website as available at WWW.BCAQMD.ORG.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOTICE OF AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

June 15, 2008

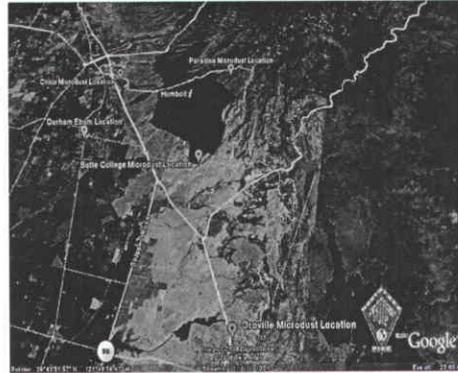
The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Notice of Air Quality Improvement to notify the public that the high air pollution levels seen over the past few days have fallen below advisory levels. Weather conditions have allowed ambient concentrations of fine particulate matter PM2.5 to decrease to healthful levels in Butte County. The recommended activity restrictions issued previously are no longer in effect.

Information will be updated and posted to the District website as available at WWW.BCAQMD.ORG.

###

Humboldt Fire

Air Quality Monitoring for Fine Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) in Butte County



Types of Air Monitors

- Stationary Beta Attenuation Monitors (BAMs) in North Chico & Gridley
- Microdust Nephelometers in Oroville, Chico, Paradise & Butte College
- Portable BAM in Durham

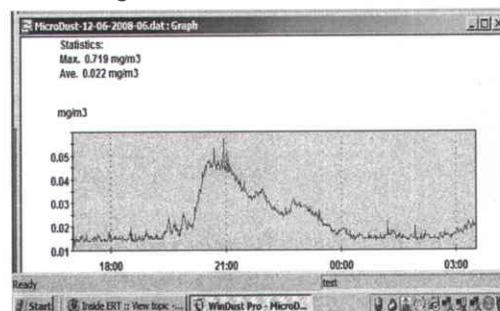
Goals and Objectives

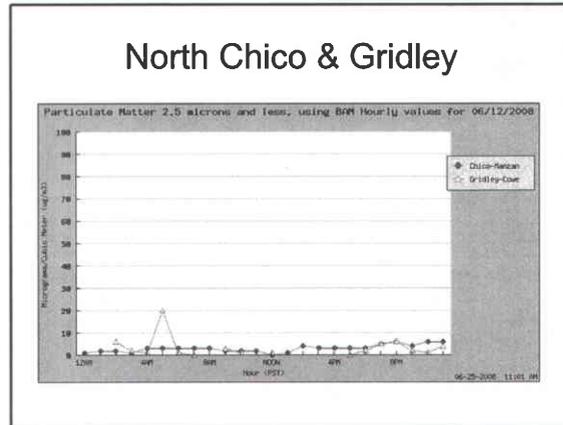
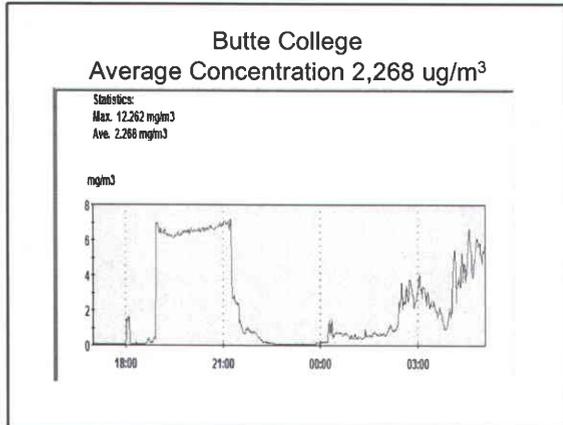
- Identify Suitable Air Monitoring Locations Between the Fire and Downwind Locations
- Measure Ambient Concentrations of Fine Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) Near Major Population Areas
- Notify The Public and Emergency Responsible Officials of Air Quality Monitoring Results

June 12, 2008

- CARB Staff Deployed Portable Microdust Air Monitors in Oroville, at Butte College and in Paradise
- Results Showed Elevated Levels of PM 2.5 in Oroville and Hazardous Levels of PM 2.5 at Butte College
- Permanent Air Monitoring Locations in Chico and Gridley were not Significantly Impacted

Oroville OES Average Concentration 22 ug/m³

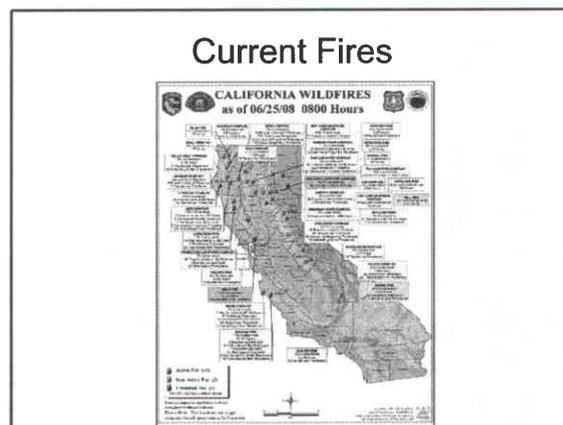




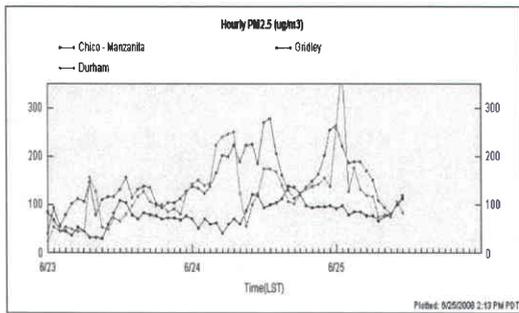
- ### June 13, 2008
- CARB Staff Relocated the Oroville Microdust Monitor to the AQMD Office in South Chico, and Deployed a Portable BAM in Durham
 - Results Showed Relatively Low Levels of PM 2.5 at the Permanent Air Monitoring Locations in North Chico and Gridley, and at the Durham Monitor
 - Hazardous Levels of PM 2.5 were recorded at Butte College and in Paradise

- ### Air Quality Advisories
- Initial Advisory Issued on June 12th
 - Updated June 13th & 14th
 - Notice of Air Quality Improvement issued June 15th

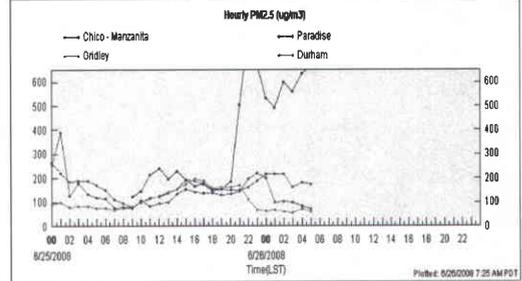
- ### Lessons Learned
- Permanent Monitoring Stations may not be adequate for assessing localized smoke impacts
 - Air Quality Advisories should provide the Public with a qualitative method for determining localized impacts
 - Real-time data recommended for staff /equipment staging areas



Recent Air Monitoring Data



Monitoring Data Last 24 Hours



Outlook

- A ridge of high pressure is expected to build through the weekend bringing a strong inversion layer
- Air quality will continue to be poor for the next several days
- Thunder storms are expected over the weekend which could bring additional lightening strikes and more fires

Date of Release: June 19, 2008
Board Consideration: June 26, 2008

To: Butte County Air Quality Management District Board of Directors
From: W. James Wagoner, Air Pollution Control Officer
Staff Contact: Robert McLaughlin, Assistant Air Pollution Control Officer
Re: **Report on Air Quality Impacts from the Humboldt fire**

ISSUE:

Smoke impacts from the Humboldt fire.

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept Report.

DISCUSSION:

At the request of the District, the California Air Resources Board sent a team of Air Quality Specialists to Butte County to deploy special purpose air monitoring equipment to measure ambient concentrations of PM 2.5 resulting from the smoke impacts from the fire. A total of 3 nephelometers and one additional beta attenuation monitor (BAM) were used to evaluate the emissions from the fire. These monitors, along with the permanent air monitoring locations in Chico and Gridley were used to measure ambient PM 2.5 concentrations. The 3 nephelometers were deployed on Thursday, June 12th with one monitor located at 3A County Center Drive, another located at Butte College, and the third located at the intersection of Neil Road and Skyway in Paradise. The results of the monitoring and District staff activities will be provided at the June meeting.

Agenda Item 11

Date of Release: July 17, 2008
Board Consideration: July 24, 2008

To: Butte County Air Quality Management District Board of Directors
From: W. James Wagoner, Air Pollution Control Officer
Staff Contact: W. James Wagoner, Air Pollution Control Officer
Re: Report on Air Quality Impacts from Recent Wildfires

ISSUE:

Smoke impacts from recent wildfires in Butte County and the north state.

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept Report.

DISCUSSION:

District staff will provide your Board an update report of the air quality impacts from the recent wildfires, primarily the Butte Lightening Complex and the Canyon Complex.

Significant air quality degradation began occurring on June 23rd, when the District and the Butte County Department of Public Health issued the first joint air quality advisory to the media and general public. The next day, June 24th, a joint air quality alert was issued due to wide-spread smoke impacts with air quality levels reaching the very unhealthy and hazardous classifications. From that point on the District has provided daily air quality updates.

In order to better characterize the air quality throughout the county, the District worked with staff from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to obtain additional monitoring resources. On June 24th CARB installed a Beta Attenuation Monitor (BAM) at the Paradise Airport. On July 9th CARB relocated the portable BAM that was sited in Durham on June 12th last month to Magalia. These monitors, along with the permanent air monitors located in Chico and Gridley were used to measure ambient PM 2.5 concentrations and prepare daily air quality updates to the media and the public. During the smoke events staff continued to coordinate with the Butte County Department of Public Health on air quality and public health matters.

The results of the monitoring to date and District staff activities will be provided at the July meeting.

Agenda Item 7

AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI)
NUMBER OF DAYS
 June 23, 2008 through July 29, 2008

Monitor Location & Dates	Good 0 - 50	Moderate 51 - 100	Unhealthy Sensitive Groups 101 - 150	Unhealthy 151 - 200	Very Unhealthy 201 - 300	Hazardous 301 -500	Total No of Days
CHICO 6- 23 – 7-29	8	6	15	4	4	0	37
GRIDLEY 6-23 – 7-29	5	12	3	1	1	0	37
PARADISE 6-26 – 7-29	4	4	6	6	4	10	34
DURHAM 6-30 – 7-8	2	3	4	0	0	0	9
MAGALIA 7-9 – 7-23	0	1	9	4	1		15
OROVILLE 7-24 – 7-29	3		1	2			6

AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI) PARTICLE POLLUTION AND VISIBILITY CHART

Index Values	Levels of Health Concern	Cautionary Statements	Visibility Range in Miles
0-50	Good	None	10+ miles
51-100*	Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.	5 – 10 miles
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.	3 – 5 miles
151-200	Unhealthy	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.	1.5 – 2.5 miles
201-300	Very Unhealthy	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.	1 – 1.25 miles
301-500	Hazardous	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Everyone else should avoid all physical activity outdoors.	< 0.75 miles



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 23, 2008

A JOINT AIR QUALITY ADVISORY ISSUED BY THE
BUTTE COUNTY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
AND
BUTTE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

To:

Public Safety Personnel
News Media
County/City Officials
County Health Officer
Local/State Law & Fire Federal
Butte County & City Managers

School Officials
Sac. Valley Air Basin Coordinating Council
Adjacent Air Quality Management Districts
California Air Resources Board
Environmental Protection Agency
Local Hospitals

From: W. James Wagoner, Air Pollution Control Officer
Dr. Mark Lundberg, MD, Health Officer

The Butte County Air Quality Management District Air Pollution Control Officer, and the Butte County Public Health Officer are issuing this Air Quality Advisory to notify the public of unhealthful air quality in Butte County with localized areas of hazardous air quality conditions due to smoke from the numerous fires in Butte and Shasta counties. The Air Quality Index is forecast to reach 150. At this level the air quality is unhealthy for all people. These conditions are expected to continue until the fires are extinguished.

Smoke from wildfires and structure fires contain significant quantities of irritating chemicals. Residents may experience symptoms during and after being exposed to smoke from the wildfire, including eye irritation, throat irritation, and coughing. Some people with existing heart and lung disease, including asthma, may experience heightened symptoms. Even healthy people may experience some of these symptoms in smoky conditions. Seek medical help if you experience symptoms that worsen or become severe.

Recommendations for Minimizing Smoke Exposure

- ✓ Stay indoors with windows and doors closed; run air-conditioner on "recirculate" setting. Do not run swamp coolers.
- ✓ Minimize or stop outdoor activities, especially exercise, during smoky conditions.
- ✓ People in a "high risk" group or those who cannot find adequate shelter from the smoke outside may need to move to a emergency shelter.

- ✓ Masks that filter out 95% of particles measuring 0.3 micrometers diameter or larger (called “N95” or “R95” masks) can be effective if properly fitted to the wearer’s face. These can be found at large hardware and home stores. HEPA filter masks are recommended.

Public officials may take other precautions, including closing schools and businesses, cancelling public events, and calling for evacuation. If you are evacuated, make sure to drive with the windows rolled up and the air conditioner on “recirculate.” Masks may also be worn when in transit to shelters to minimize smoke exposure.

With these fire and wind conditions, it’s especially important for people with asthma or other respiratory diseases or heart conditions to monitor their health and consult with their health care providers if their symptoms worsen. Individuals with respiratory illness should consider leaving the area until air quality conditions improve.

Stayed tuned for emergency announcements on radio and TV about air quality and any calls for evacuations.

The following index will assist in assessing the air quality based on the visibility in your area. To assess visibility:

- Face away from the sun. Determine visibility range by looking for targets that are at known distances (miles).
- The visible range is the point where even high-contrast objects disappear.
- After determining visibility in miles use the following Wildfire Smoke Visibility Index to assess air quality.

Visibility Range	Health Category	Health Effects
10+ miles	Good	None
5 – 10 miles	Moderate	Usually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
3 – 5 miles	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Sensitive people should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
1.5 – 2.5 miles	Unhealthy	Sensitive people should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
1 – 1.25 miles	Very Unhealthy	Very Unhealthy Sensitive people should avoid all physical activity outdoors Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
<0.75 miles	Hazardous	Sensitive people should remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Everyone else should avoid all physical activity outdoors.

Information will be updated and posted to the District website as available at WWW.BCAQMD.ORG.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2008

A JOINT AIR QUALITY ALERT ISSUED BY THE
BUTTE COUNTY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
AND
BUTTE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

To:

Public Safety Personnel	School Officials
News Media	Sac. Valley Air Basin Coordinating Council
County/City Officials	Adjacent Air Quality Management Districts
County Health Officer	California Air Resources Board
Local/State Law & Fire Federal	Environmental Protection Agency
Butte County & City Managers	Local Hospitals

From: W. James Wagoner, Air Pollution Control Officer
Dr. Mark Lundberg, MD, MPH, Health Officer

The Butte County Air Quality Management District Air Pollution Control Officer and the Butte County Public Health Officer are issuing an Air Quality Advisory to notify the public of unhealthful air quality in Butte County with localized areas of hazardous air quality conditions due to smoke from the numerous fires in Butte and Shasta counties.

Yesterday Butte County exceeded the federal health-based average 24-hour Ambient Air Quality Standard of 35 micro grams per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The 24-hour average yesterday was 109 ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index of 176. Today the Air Quality Index is forecast to reach 205. At this level the air quality is rated **VERY UNHEALTHY** for all people; these conditions are expected to continue until the fires are extinguished.

Smoke from wildfires and structure fires contain significant quantities of irritating chemicals. Residents may experience symptoms during and after being exposed to smoke, including eye irritation, throat irritation and coughing. People with existing heart and lung disease, including asthma, may experience heightened symptoms. They should monitor their health and consult with their health care provider should their symptoms worsen. These individuals should consider leaving the area until air quality conditions improve. Even healthy people may experience some of these symptoms in smoky conditions. Seek medical help if you experience symptoms that worsen or become severe.

Recommendations for Minimizing Smoke Exposure

- ✓ Stay indoors with windows and doors closed; run air-conditioner on "recirculate" setting. Do not run swamp coolers. If it becomes too warm indoors, individuals may consider leaving the area to seek alternative shelter.

- ✓ Minimize or stop outdoor activities, especially exercise, during smoky conditions.
- ✓ People in a “high risk” group or those who cannot find adequate shelter from the smoke outside may need to move to an emergency shelter.
- ✓ Masks that filter out 95 percent of particles measuring 0.3 micrometers diameter or larger (known as “N95” or “R95” masks) can be effective if properly fitted to the wearer’s face. These can be found at large hardware and home stores. HEPA filter masks are recommended.

Public officials may take other precautions, including closing schools and businesses, cancelling public events and calling for evacuation. If you are evacuated, make sure to drive with the windows rolled up and the air conditioner on “recirculate.” Masks may also be worn when in transit to shelters to minimize smoke exposure.

Additionally, pet owners should consider bringing their small animals indoors out of the unhealthy air conditions if possible.

Stay tuned for emergency announcements on radio and TV about air quality and updates on evacuations.

Use the following index to assess the air quality based on the visibility in a given area:

- Face away from the sun. Determine visibility range by looking for targets that are at known distances (miles).
- The visible range is the point where even high-contrast objects disappear.
- After determining visibility in miles use the following Wildfire Smoke Visibility Index to assess air quality.

Visibility Range	Health Category	Health Effects
10+ miles	Good	None
5 – 10 miles	Moderate	Usually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
3 – 5 miles	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Sensitive people should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
1.5 – 2.5 miles	Unhealthy	Sensitive people should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
1 – 1.25 miles	Very Unhealthy	Very Unhealthy Sensitive people should avoid all physical activity outdoors Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
<0.75 miles	Hazardous	Sensitive people should remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Everyone else should avoid all physical activity outdoors.

Information will be updated and posted to the District Web site as available at WWW.BCAQMD.ORG. Following is the Air Quality Index table for Particle Pollution for reference.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 25, 2008

A JOINT AIR QUALITY ALERT ISSUED BY THE
BUTTE COUNTY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
AND
BUTTE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

To:

Public Safety Personnel	School Officials
News Media	Sac. Valley Air Basin Coordinating Council
County/City Officials	Adjacent Air Quality Management Districts
County Health Officer	California Air Resources Board
Local/State Law & Fire Federal	Environmental Protection Agency
Butte County & City Managers	Local Hospitals

From: W. James Wagoner, Air Pollution Control Officer
Dr. Mark Lundberg, MD, MPH, Health Officer

The Butte County Air Quality Management District Air Pollution Control Officer and the Butte County Public Health Officer are issuing an Air Quality Alert to notify the public of continued unhealthful air quality in Butte County with **localized areas of hazardous air quality conditions** due to smoke from the numerous fires in Butte, Tehama and Shasta counties.

Yesterday Butte County exceeded the federal health-based average 24-hour Ambient Air Quality Standard of 35 micro grams per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The 24-hour average yesterday was 180 ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index of 230. Today the Air Quality Index is forecast to reach 250. At this level the air quality is rated **VERY UNHEALTHY** for all people. These conditions are expected to continue until the fires are extinguished.

Smoke from wildfires and structure fires contain significant quantities of irritating chemicals. Residents may experience symptoms during and after being exposed to smoke, including eye irritation, throat irritation and coughing. People with existing heart and lung disease, including asthma, may experience heightened symptoms. They should monitor their health and consult with their health care provider should their symptoms worsen. These individuals should consider leaving the area until air quality conditions improve. Even healthy people may experience some of these symptoms in smoky conditions. Seek medical help if you experience symptoms that worsen or become severe.

Recommendations for Minimizing Smoke Exposure

- ✓ Stay indoors with windows and doors closed; run air-conditioner on "recirculate" setting. Do not run swamp coolers. If it becomes too warm indoors, individuals may consider leaving the area to seek alternative shelter.

- ✓ Minimize or stop outdoor activities, especially exercise, during smoky conditions.
- ✓ People who must spend time outdoors should drink plenty of fluids.
- ✓ People in a “high risk” group or those who cannot find adequate shelter from the smoke outside may need to move to an emergency shelter.
- ✓ Masks that filter out 95 percent of particles measuring 0.3 micrometers diameter or larger (known as “N95” or “R95” masks) can be effective if properly fitted to the wearer’s face. These can be found at large hardware and home stores. HEPA filter masks are recommended.

Public officials may take other precautions, including closing schools and businesses, cancelling public events and calling for evacuation. If you are evacuated, make sure to drive with the windows rolled up and the air conditioner on “recirculate.” Masks may also be worn when in transit to shelters to minimize smoke exposure.

Additionally, pet owners should consider bringing their small animals indoors out of the unhealthy air conditions if possible.

Stay tuned for emergency announcements on radio and TV about air quality and updates on evacuations.

Use the following index to assess the air quality based on the visibility in a given area:

- Face away from the sun. Determine visibility range by looking for targets that are at known distances (miles).
- The visible range is the point where even high-contrast objects disappear.
- After determining visibility in miles use the following Wildfire Smoke Visibility Index to assess air quality.

Visibility Range	Health Category	Cautionary Statements
10+ miles	Good	None
5 – 10 miles	Moderate	Usually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
3 – 5 miles	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Sensitive people should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
1.5 – 2.5 miles	Unhealthy	Sensitive people should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
1 – 1.25 miles	Very Unhealthy	Very Unhealthy Sensitive people should avoid all physical activity outdoors Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
<0.75 miles	Hazardous	Sensitive people should remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Everyone else should avoid all physical activity outdoors.

Information will be updated and posted to the District Web site as available at WWW.BCAQMD.ORG. Following is the Air Quality Index table for Particle Pollution for reference.

2525 Dominic Drive, Suite J
Chico, CA 95928
(530) 891-2882
(530) 891-2878 Fax



W. James Wagoner
Air Pollution Control Officer

Robert McLaughlin
Asst. Air Pollution Control Officer

PRESS RELEASE

June 26, 2008

AIR QUALITY ALERT UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Alert update to notify the public of continued unhealthy air quality in Butte County with **localized areas of hazardous air quality conditions** due to smoke from the numerous fires in Butte, Tehama and Shasta counties. The joint public health advisory issued yesterday by the Air Quality Management District and the Butte County Public Health Department remains in effect until further notice.

Yesterday Butte County exceeded the federal health-based average 24-hour Ambient Air Quality Standard of 35 micro grams per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The 24-hour average in Chico yesterday was **152** ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index of **202**. Today the Air Quality Index in Chico is forecast to reach **240**. At this level the air quality is rated **VERY UNHEALTHY** for all people. An additional monitor has been located at the Paradise Airport which has reached hazardous air quality levels of PM_{2.5} yesterday evening and this morning. These conditions are expected to continue until the fires are extinguished.

All recommendations for minimizing smoke exposure continue to be in effect until further notice. A summary follows.

Recommendations for Minimizing Smoke Exposure

- ✓ Stay indoors with windows and doors closed; run air-conditioner on "recirculate" setting. Do not run swamp coolers. If it becomes too warm indoors, individuals may consider leaving the area to seek alternative shelter.
- ✓ Minimize or stop outdoor activities, especially exercise, or children's sporting events during smoky conditions.
- ✓ People in a "high risk" group or those who cannot find adequate shelter from the smoke outside may need to move to an emergency shelter located out of smoky areas.
- ✓ People who must spend time outdoors should drink plenty of fluids.
- ✓ Masks that filter out 95 percent of particles measuring 0.3 micrometers diameter or larger (known as "N95" or "R95" respirators/masks) can be effective if properly fitted to the wearer's face. These can be found at large hardware and home stores. HEPA filter masks are also recommended. Respirators are not intended to be worn for exercise use.

Information will be updated and posted to the District Web site as available at WWW.BCAQMD.ORG and recorded on the Residential Burn HOTLINE at 896-2537 or toll free at 866-240-0859. The District office number is 891-2882 or 888-891-2882

Following is the Air Quality Index table for Particle Pollution for reference.

2525 Dominic Drive, Suite J
Chico, CA 95928

(530) 891-2882
(530) 891-2878 Fax



W. James Wago
Air Pollution Control Off

Robert McLaugh
Asst. Air Pollution Control Off

PRESS RELEASE

June 27, 2008

AIR QUALITY ALERT UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Alert update to notify the public of continued unhealthy air quality in Butte County with **localized areas of hazardous air quality conditions** due to smoke from the numerous fires in Butte, Tehama and Shasta counties. The joint public health advisory issued yesterday by the Air Quality Management District and the Butte County Public Health Department remains in effect until further notice.

Yesterday Butte County exceeded the federal health-based average 24-hour Ambient Air Quality Standard of 35 micro grams per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The 24-hour average in Chico yesterday was 134 ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index of 191.

Today the Air Quality Index in Chico is forecast to reach 213. At this level the air quality is rated **VERY UNHEALTHY** for all people.

An additional monitor has been located at the Paradise Airport. The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday was 322 ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index of 312.

Today the Air Quality Index in Paradise is forecast to reach 350. At this level the air quality is rated **HAZARDOUS**. These conditions are expected to continue until the fires are extinguished.

All recommendations for minimizing smoke exposure continue to be in effect until further notice. A summary follows.

Recommendations for Minimizing Smoke Exposure

- ✓ Stay indoors with windows and doors closed; run air-conditioner on "recirculate" setting. Do not run swamp coolers. If it becomes too warm indoors, individuals may consider leaving the area to seek alternative shelter.
- ✓ Minimize or stop outdoor activities, especially exercise, or children's sporting events during smoky conditions.
- ✓ People in a "high risk" group or those who cannot find adequate shelter from the smoke outside may need to move to an emergency shelter located out of smoky areas.
- ✓ People who must spend time outdoors should drink plenty of fluids.
- ✓ Masks that filter out 95 percent of particles measuring 0.3 micrometers diameter or larger (known as "N95" or "R95" respirators/masks) can be effective if properly fitted to the wearer's face. These can be found at large hardware and home stores. HEPA filter masks are also recommended. Respirators are not intended to be worn for exercise use.

Information will be updated and posted to the District Web site as available at **WWW.BCAQMD.ORG** and recorded on the Residential Burn HOTLINE at 896-2537 or toll free at 866-240-0859. The District office number is 891-2882 or 888-891-2882. Following is the Air Quality Index table for Particle Pollution for reference.

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W. James Wago
Air Pollution Control Off

Robert McLaugh
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PRESS RELEASE

June 28, 2008

AIR QUALITY ALERT UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Alert update to notify the public of continued unhealthful air quality in Butte County with **localized areas of hazardous air quality conditions** due to smoke from the numerous fires in Butte, Tehama and Shasta counties. The joint public health advisory issued July 25th by the Air Quality Management District and the Butte County Public Health Department remains in effect until further notice.

Yesterday Butte County exceeded the federal health-based average 24-hour Ambient Air Quality Standard of 35 micro grams per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The 24-hour average in Chico yesterday was 163 ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index of 213.

Today the Air Quality Index in Chico is forecast to reach 160 At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY** for all people.

An additional monitor has been located at the Paradise Airport. The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday was 302 ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index of 352.

Today the Air Quality Index in Paradise is forecast to reach 300. At this level the air quality is rated **HAZARDOUS** for all people.

Unhealthful air quality conditions are expected to continue until the fires are extinguished. All recommendations for minimizing smoke exposure continue to be in effect until further notice.

Recommendations for Minimizing Smoke Exposure

- ✓ Stay indoors with windows and doors closed; run air-conditioner on "recirculate" setting. Do not run swamp coolers. If it becomes too warm indoors, individuals may consider leaving the area to seek alternative shelter.
- ✓ Minimize or stop outdoor activities, especially exercise, or children's sporting events during smoky conditions.
- ✓ People in a "high risk" group or those who cannot find adequate shelter from the smoke outside may need to move to an emergency shelter located out of smoky areas.
- ✓ People who must spend time outdoors should drink plenty of fluids.
- ✓ Masks that filter out 95 percent of particles measuring 0.3 micrometers diameter or larger (known as "N95" or "R95" respirators/masks) can be effective if properly fitted to the wearer's face. These can be found at large hardware and home stores. HEPA filter masks are also recommended. Respirators are not intended to be worn for exercise use.

Information will be updated and posted to the District Web site as available at **WWW.BCAQMD.ORG** and recorded on the Residential Burn HOTLINE at 896-2537 or toll free at 866-240-0859. The District office number is 891-2882 or 888-891-2882. Following is the Air Quality Index table for Particle Pollution.

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PRESS RELEASE

June 29, 2008

NOTICE AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FOR VALLEY AREAS

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Notice of Air Quality Improvement to notify the public that the high air pollution levels seen throughout this past week have today fallen below advisory levels in the valley portion of the county. Although there may continue to be visible haze in Butte County as a result of wildfires burning, the recommended activity restrictions issued earlier this week are no longer in effect for the valley areas. However, the air quality alert continues for the foothills due to continued unhealthy air quality.

Yesterday Butte County exceeded the federal health-based average 24-hour Ambient Air Quality Standard of 35 micro grams per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The 24-hour average in Chico yesterday was 65 ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index of 150.

Today the Air Quality Index in Chico is forecast to reach 83 At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE** for all people.

The 24-hour average yesterday at the Paradise Airport monitor was 212 ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index of 262.

Today the Air Quality Index in Paradise is forecast to reach 215. At this level the air quality is rated **VERY UNHEALTHY** for all people.

Unhealthy air quality conditions are expected to continue in localized areas (foothills) until the fires are extinguished. All recommendations for minimizing smoke exposure continue to be in effect in smoky areas of the county.

Recommendations for Minimizing Smoke Exposure

- ✓ Stay indoors with windows and doors closed; run air-conditioner on "recirculate" setting. Do not run swamp coolers. If it becomes too warm indoors, individuals may consider leaving the area to seek alternative shelter.
- ✓ Minimize or stop outdoor activities, especially exercise, or children's sporting events during smoky conditions.
- ✓ People in a "high risk" group or those who cannot find adequate shelter from the smoke outside may need to move to an emergency shelter located out of smoky areas.
- ✓ People who must spend time outdoors should drink plenty of fluids.
- ✓ Masks that filter out 95 percent of particles measuring 0.3 micrometers diameter or larger (known as "N95" or "R95" respirators/masks) can be effective if properly fitted to the wearer's face. These can be found at large hardware and home stores. HEPA filter masks are also recommended. Respirators are not intended to be worn for exercise use.

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PRESS RELEASE

June 30, 2008

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Advisory update to notify the public of continued poor air quality in Butte County due to smoke from the numerous fires in Butte, Tehama, Shasta and surrounding counties. There continues to be visible haze in the valley areas of Butte County and times of unhealthy air while the air quality for the foothills continues to be very unhealthy and has reached hazardous levels.

Yesterday Butte County exceeded the federal health-based average 24-hour Ambient Air Quality Standard of 35 micro grams per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The 24-hour average in Chico yesterday was 54 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ which is equal to an Air Quality Index of 128.

Today the Air Quality Index in Chico is forecast to reach 140 At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY** for sensitive groups.

The 24-hour average yesterday at the Paradise Airport monitor was 281 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ which is equal to an Air Quality Index of 330.

Today the Air Quality Index in Paradise is forecast to remain 330. At this level the air quality is rated **HAZARDOUS** for all people.

Unhealthy air quality conditions are expected to continue in localized areas and particularly the foothills until the fires are extinguished. All recommendations for minimizing smoke exposure continue to be in effect in smoky areas of the county.

Recommendations for Minimizing Smoke Exposure

- ✓ Stay indoors with windows and doors closed; run air-conditioner on "recirculate" setting. Do not run swamp coolers. If it becomes too warm indoors, individuals may consider leaving the area to seek alternative shelter.
- ✓ Minimize or stop outdoor activities, especially exercise, or children's sporting events during smoky conditions.
- ✓ People in a "high risk" group or those who cannot find adequate shelter from the smoke outside may need to move to an emergency shelter located out of smoky areas.
- ✓ People who must spend time outdoors should drink plenty of fluids.
- ✓ Masks that filter out 95 percent of particles measuring 0.3 micrometers diameter or larger (known as "N95" or "R95" respirators/masks) can be effective if properly fitted to the wearer's face. These can be found at large hardware and home stores. HEPA filter masks are also recommended. Respirators are not intended to be worn for exercise use.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 1, 2008
AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update to notify the public of poor air quality that continues in certain areas of Butte County due to smoke from the numerous wildfires. The smoke has been moved about by winds, but has yet to be cleared out completely. Due to wind shifts air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day and make outdoor plans accordingly. The visibility chart below may be used to estimate the air quality.

Although visible haze in Butte County continues as a result of wildfires, the outdoor activity-reduction recommendations issued are only in effect for areas in the County that continue to experience high levels of unhealthy air. This includes the foothills due to the high volume of fires still burning in that area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. The federal health-based 24-hour average Ambient Air Quality Standard is 35 micro grams per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Any value above 35 ug/m³ is considered unhealthy.

Chico: The 24-hour average yesterday was 57 ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 133. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach 60. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**. Air quality in the valley areas can change hour to hour based on the winds. Typically the morning hours in the valley areas have the highest PM_{2.5} levels. These past few days there has also been a spike in PM_{2.5} levels in the afternoon due to winds.

Paradise: The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday was 288 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 330. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to remain 300. At this level the air quality is rated **VERY UNHEALTHY for all people**. Air quality in the foothill areas have a typical upslope and down slope of winds and therefore smoke during the wildfires. The past few days the foothills have seen the highest PM_{2.5} levels late in the evening through the morning hours. The best air quality hours have been in the afternoon until the late evening when the smoke returns to down slope.

Gridley: The air quality in Gridley the past few days has been fairly good. The monitoring data for Gridley has not always been available. The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was 12 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 38. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to remain at 38. At this level the air quality is rated **GOOD**. The highest levels of PM_{2.5} are usually in the early mornings with peaks in the afternoons dependent on winds.

Durham: A temporary PM_{2.5} monitor has been set up in Durham. The 24-hour average in Durham yesterday was 27 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 79. Today the AQI in Durham is forecast to reach 15. At this level the air quality is rated **GOOD**. As a valley area the highest levels of PM_{2.5} are usually in the early mornings with peaks in the afternoons dependent on winds.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. Officials recommend people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 2, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update to notify the public of poor air quality that continues in certain areas of Butte County due to smoke from the numerous wildfires. The smoke has been moved about by winds, but has yet to be cleared out completely. Due to wind shifts air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day and make outdoor plans accordingly. The visibility chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Although visible haze in Butte County continues as a result of wildfires, the outdoor activity-reduction recommendations issued are only in effect for areas in the County that continue to experience high levels of unhealthy air. This includes the foothills due to the high volume of fires still burning in those areas.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. The federal health-based 24-hour average Ambient Air Quality Standard is 35 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Any value above 35 ug/m³ is considered unhealthy.

Chico: The 24-hour average yesterday was 36 ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 91 Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach 154. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**. Air quality in the valley areas can change hour to hour based on the winds. Today the entire Northern Sacramento Valley is expected to be impacted by smoke. The winds are forecasted to be from the southwest.

Paradise: The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday was 287 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 337. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to remain 340. At this level the air quality is rated **HAZARDOUS FOR ALL PEOPLE**. Air quality in the foothill areas have a typical upslope and down slope of winds and therefore smoke during the wildfires. The past few days the foothills have seen the highest PM_{2.5} levels late in the evening through the morning hours. The best air quality hours have been in the afternoon until the late evening when the smoke returns to down slope.

Gridley: The air quality in Gridley the past few days has been fairly good. The monitoring data for Gridley has not always been available. The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was 36 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 91. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach 120. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**. The highest levels of PM_{2.5} are usually in the early mornings with peaks in the afternoons dependent on winds.

Durham: A temporary PM_{2.5} monitor has been set up in Durham. The 24-hour average in Durham yesterday was 31 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 82. Today the AQI in Durham is forecast to reach 140. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE** As a valley area the highest levels of PM_{2.5} are usually in the early mornings with peaks in the afternoons dependent on winds.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 3, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update to notify the public of poor air quality that continues in certain areas of Butte County due to smoke from the numerous wildfires. The smoke has cleared somewhat by stronger southerly winds, but has yet to be cleared out completely. Due to wind shifts air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day and make outdoor plans accordingly. The visibility chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Although visible haze in Butte County continues as a result of wildfires, the outdoor activity-reduction recommendations issued are only in effect for areas in the County that continue to experience high levels of unhealthy air (foothills).

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. The federal health-based 24-hour average Ambient Air Quality Standard is 35 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m3) for fine particulate matter (PM2.5). Any value above 35 ug/m3 is considered unhealthy.

Chico: The 24-hour average yesterday was 62 ug/m3 which is equal to an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 143. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach 60. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**. Air quality in the valley areas can change hour to hour based on the winds. Today the smoke that has impacted valley areas has started to clear due to stronger southerly winds which are forecast to continue today and tomorrow.

Paradise: The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday was 335 ug/m3 which is equal to an AQI of 337. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to improve to 210. At this level the air quality is rated **VERY UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**. Air quality in the foothill areas have a typical upslope and down slope of winds and therefore smoke during the wildfires. The past few days the foothills have seen the highest PM2.5 levels late in the evening through the morning hours. The best air quality hours have been in the afternoon until the late evening when the smoke returns to down slope. With the strengthening of winds, the density of smoke has lessened, resulting in an AQI below the previously hazardous levels.

Gridley: The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was 37 ug/m3 which is equal to an AQI of 93. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach 45. At this level the air quality is rated **GOOD**.

Durham: The 24-hour average in Durham yesterday was 63 ug/m3 which is equal to an AQI of 145. Today the AQI in Durham is forecast to reach 45. At this level the air quality is rated **GOOD**.

Oroville: There is not a PM2.5 monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. Officials recommend people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **GOOD**.

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W. James Wagoner
Air Pollution Control Officer

Robert McLaughlin
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PRESS RELEASE

July 4, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update to notify the public of improved air quality in Butte County. The southerly winds the area has experienced have been effective in clearing out much of the smoke. These southerly winds are forecast to continue throughout the day today, keeping the skies clearer. However, it is still important to monitor the smoke throughout the day and make outdoor plans accordingly. Active fires continue to burn and a wind shift could result in deterioration of air quality. The visibility chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. The federal health-based 24-hour average Ambient Air Quality Standard is 35 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Any value above 35 ug/m³ is considered unhealthy.

Chico: The 24-hour average yesterday was 11.2 ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 36 (Good). Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach 25. At this level the air quality is rated **GOOD**.

Paradise: The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday improved to 72.7 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 155 (Unhealthy). The pollution concentrations in Paradise were elevated during the early morning hours yesterday, but winds picked up in the afternoon, clearing out the smoke. Air quality improved significantly in the afternoon and evening hours. That trend is expected to continue today, resulting in an AQI for Paradise forecast to be 30 (**GOOD**).

Gridley: The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was 5.5 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 18 (Good). Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach 20. At this level the air quality is rated **GOOD**.

Durham: The 24-hour average in Durham yesterday was 10 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 32. Today the AQI in Durham is forecast to reach 25. At this level the air quality is rated **GOOD**.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. Officials recommend people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **GOOD**.

Information will be updated and posted to the District Web site as available at www.bcaqmd.org and recorded on the Residential Burn HOTLINE at 896-2537 or toll free at 866-240-0859. The District office number during regular business hours is 891-2882 or 888-891-2882.

For questions regarding health concerns relative to the smoke from the wildfires, please contact your personal health care provider or Butte County Public Health Department at 538-7581 or visit their Web site at www.buttecounty.net/publichealth. The Butte County Public Health Department will issue a separate public health advisory. An Air Quality Index for Particle Pollution and Visibility Chart follow.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 5, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update to notify the public of poor air quality from wildfire smoke that has returned to Butte County after a day of relatively clear skies and healthier conditions. Yesterday's southerly winds have stalled and overnight smoke from the higher elevations was carried into the valley and foothill locations by downslope winds.

Although visible haze in Butte County is expected to continue as a result of wildfires, the outdoor activity-reduction recommendations issued are only in effect for areas in the County that continue to experience high levels of unhealthy air (foothills). The visibility chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. The federal health-based 24-hour average Ambient Air Quality Standard is 35 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Any value above 35 ug/m³ is considered unhealthy.

Chico: The 24-hour average yesterday was 7.9 ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 26 (Good). Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach 102. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Paradise: The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday improved to 10.8 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 35 (Good). With the return of the smoke the air quality has deteriorated, resulting in an AQI for Paradise forecast to be 290 (**HAZARDOUS**).

Gridley: The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was 9.4 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 31 (Good). Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach 130. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Durham: The 24-hour average in Durham yesterday was 8.0 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 26. Today the AQI in Durham is forecast to reach 139. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. Officials recommend people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 6, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update to notify the public of continued poor air quality from wildfire smoke. Although visible haze in Butte County is expected to continue as a result of wildfires, the outdoor activity-reduction recommendations issued are only in effect for areas in the County that continue to experience high levels of unhealthy air (foothills). The visibility chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. The federal health-based 24-hour average Ambient Air Quality Standard is **35** micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Any value above 35 ug/m³ is considered unhealthy.

Chico: The 24-hour average yesterday was **39** ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index (AQI) of **98** (Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **130**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Paradise: The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday was **110** ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of **177** (Very Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **301**. At this level the air quality is rated **HAZARDOUS**.

Gridley: The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was **49** ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of **117** (Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **115**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Durham: The 24-hour average in Durham yesterday was **50** ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of **120**. Today the AQI in Durham is forecast to reach **125**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. Officials recommend people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 7, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update to notify the public of continued poor air quality from wildfire smoke. Although visible haze in Butte County is expected to continue as a result of wildfires, the outdoor activity-reduction recommendations issued are only in effect for areas in the County that continue to experience high levels of unhealthy air (foothills). The visibility chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. The federal health-based 24-hour average Ambient Air Quality Standard is **35** micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Any value above 35 ug/m³ is considered unhealthy.

Chico: The 24-hour average yesterday was 43 ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 106 (Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach 65. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Paradise: The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday was 255 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 305 (Very Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach 215. At this level the air quality is rated **VERY UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Gridley: The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was 51ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 122 (Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach 99. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Durham: The 24-hour average in Durham yesterday was 50 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 120. Today the AQI in Durham is forecast to reach 65. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. Officials recommend people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **MODERATE**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 8, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update to notify the public of continued poor air quality from wildfire smoke. Although visible haze in Butte County is expected to continue as a result of wildfires, the outdoor activity-reduction recommendations issued are in effect for areas in the County that continue to experience high levels of unhealthy air. The visibility chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. The federal health-based 24-hour average Ambient Air Quality Standard is 35 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Any value above 35 ug/m³ is considered unhealthy.

Chico: The 24-hour average yesterday was 40 ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 99 (Moderate). Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach 120. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

Paradise: The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday was 152 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 202 (Very Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach 230. At this level the air quality is rated **VERY UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Gridley: The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was 53ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 122 (Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach 99. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

Durham: The 24-hour average in Durham yesterday was 38 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 95 (Moderate). Today the AQI in Durham is forecast to reach 130. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. Officials recommend people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

NOTE: The forecast for the valley areas is based on north winds moving the smoke to the south. If the winds should shift the valley areas could be more significantly impacted by unhealthy air.

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W. James Wagoner
Air Pollution Control Officer

Robert McLaughlin
Asst. Air Pollution Control Officer

PRESS RELEASE

July 9, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update to notify the public of continued poor air quality from wildfire smoke. Although visible haze in Butte County is expected to continue as a result of wildfires, the outdoor activity-reduction recommendations issued are in effect for areas in the County that continue to experience high levels of unhealthy air. The visibility chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. The federal health-based 24-hour average Ambient Air Quality Standard is 35 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Any value above 35 ug/m³ is considered unhealthy.

Chico: The 24-hour average yesterday was 20 ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 60 (Moderate). Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach 155. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Paradise: The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday was 350 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 400 (Hazardous). Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach 375. At this level the air quality is rated **HAZARDOUS**.

Gridley: The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was 31ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 82 (Moderate). Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach 155. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Durham: The 24-hour average in Durham yesterday was 42 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 104 (Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Durham is forecast to reach 155. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. Officials recommend people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **VERY UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 10, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update to notify the public of continued poor air quality from wildfire smoke. Although visible haze in Butte County is expected to continue as a result of wildfires, the outdoor activity-reduction recommendations issued are in effect for areas in the County that continue to experience high levels of unhealthy air. The visibility chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly.

Yesterday the monitor in Durham was moved to Magalia to get more data on smoke impacts to the foothill areas.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. The federal health-based 24-hour average Ambient Air Quality Standard is 35 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Any value above 35 ug/m³ is considered unhealthy.

Chico: The 24-hour average yesterday was 78 ug/m³ which is equal to an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 158 (Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach 155. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Paradise: The monitoring data from Paradise yesterday was incomplete. Based on available data the air quality in Paradise yesterday was in the **HAZARDOUS** category. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach 375. At this level the air quality is rated **HAZARDOUS**.

Gridley: The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was 107 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 175 (Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach 155. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Magalia: Yesterday Magalia had a 10-hour average of 59 ug/m³ which is in the unhealthy category. Today the AQI in Magalia is forecast to reach 210. At this level the air quality is rated **VERY UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. Officials recommend people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **VERY UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 11, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update regarding the continued poor air quality from wildfire smoke. Visible haze and smoke in Butte County is expected to continue as a result of the wildfires. Outdoor activity-reduction recommendations previously issued are in effect for areas in the County that continue to experience high levels of unhealthy air. The visibility chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. The federal health-based 24-hour average Ambient Air Quality Standard is 35 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Any value above 35 ug/m³ is considered unhealthy. The Air Quality Index (AQI) reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average level of fine particulate matter at each site. As noted above, it is important to note that during a 24 hour period the air quality can change rapidly during the day due to changes in wind patterns. Further, while the air quality impacts are generally worse in the foothill areas, the monitoring data shows there are differences based on monitoring location and predominant wind direction (see differences between Magalia and Paradise).

Chico: The 24-hour average yesterday was 189 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 238 (Very Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach 220. At this level the air quality is rated **VERY UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Gridley: The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was 161 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 211 (Very Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach 155. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. Officials recommend people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. Based on the visibility yesterday the air quality in Oroville has been in the Very Unhealthy and Hazardous categories. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **VERY UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Paradise: The monitoring data from Paradise yesterday was incomplete. Based on available data the air quality in Paradise yesterday was in the **HAZARDOUS** category. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach 400. At this level the air quality is rated **HAZARDOUS**.

Magalia: The 24-hour average in Magalia yesterday was 204 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 254 (Very Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Magalia is forecast to reach 250. At this level the air quality is rated **VERY UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 12, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update regarding the continued poor air quality from wildfire smoke. Visible haze and smoke in Butte County is expected to continue as a result of the wildfires. Outdoor activity-reduction recommendations previously issued are in effect for areas in the County that continue to experience high levels of unhealthy air. The visibility chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. The federal health-based 24-hour average Ambient Air Quality Standard is 35 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Any value above 35 ug/m³ is considered unhealthy. The Air Quality Index (AQI) reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average level of fine particulate matter at each site. As noted above, it is important to note that during a 24 hour period the air quality can change rapidly during the day due to changes in wind patterns. Further, while the air quality impacts are generally worse in the foothill areas, the monitoring data shows there are differences based on monitoring location and predominant wind direction.

Chico: The 24-hour average yesterday was 121 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 183 (Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach 105. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

Gridley: The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was 39 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 97 (Moderate). Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach 80. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. Officials recommend people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. Based on the visibility yesterday the air quality in Oroville was Unhealthy. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **MODERATE**.

Paradise: The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday was 204 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 254 (Very Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach 210. At this level the air quality is rated **VERY UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Magalia: The 24-hour average in Magalia yesterday was 145 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 197 (Very Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Magalia is forecast to reach 201. At this level the air quality is rated **VERY UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 13, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update regarding the continued poor air quality from wildfire smoke. Visible haze and smoke in Butte County continues as a result of the North State wildfires but is expected to diminish across the valley as better ventilation draws some of the generated smoke out of the air shed. Outdoor activity-reduction recommendations previously issued are in effect for areas in the County that continue to experience high levels of unhealthy air. The visibility chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. The federal health-based 24-hour average Ambient Air Quality Standard is 35 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Any value above 35 ug/m³ is considered unhealthy. The Air Quality Index (AQI) reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average level of fine particulate matter at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality will reach levels above and below the average. While the air quality impacts are generally worse in the foothill areas, the monitoring data shows there are differences based on monitoring location and predominant wind direction.

Chico: The 24-hour average yesterday was 40 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 99 (Moderate). Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach 105. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

Gridley: The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was 22 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 64 (Moderate). Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach 60. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. Officials recommend people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. Based on the visibility yesterday the air quality in Oroville was Unhealthy. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **MODERATE**.

Paradise: The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday was 66 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 151 (Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach 155. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Magalia: The 24-hour average in Magalia yesterday was 117 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 181 (Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Magalia is forecast to reach 155. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 14, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update regarding the continued poor air quality from wildfire smoke. Visible haze and smoke in Butte County continues as a result of the North State wildfires but the smoke is expected to be less extensive than the recent past and largely found drifting at heights above the valley floor from the influx of modest marine air through the Delta. Outdoor activity-reduction recommendations previously issued are in effect for the foothill areas that continue to experience levels of unhealthy air. The visibility chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. The federal health-based 24-hour average Ambient Air Quality Standard is 35 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Any value above 35 ug/m³ is considered unhealthy. The Air Quality Index (AQI) reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average of fine particulate matter at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality will reach levels above and below the average. While the air quality impacts are generally worse in the foothill areas, the monitoring data shows there are differences based on monitoring location and predominant wind direction.

Chico: The 24-hour average yesterday was 53 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 126 (Unhealthy for Sensitive People). Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach 85. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Gridley: The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was 23 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 66 (Moderate). Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach 60. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. Officials recommend people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. Based on the visibility yesterday the air quality in Oroville was Unhealthy. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **MODERATE**.

Paradise: The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday was 99 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 170 (Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach 180. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Magalia: The 24-hour average in Magalia yesterday was 80 ug/m³ which is equal to an AQI of 159 (Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Magalia is forecast to reach 155. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 15, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update to notify the public that the high air pollution levels seen throughout the past several weeks have improved throughout the county. Although there may continue to be visible haze and smoke as a result of wildfires burning, the recommended activity restrictions issued earlier this week are only in effect for sensitive people in the foothill areas that continue to have some reduced visibility. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly. The Air Quality Index (AQI) and Visibility Chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. Any value above 100 on the AQI chart is considered unhealthy. The AQI reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality will reach levels above and below the average.

Chico: The AQI for Chico yesterday was **74** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **55**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Gridley: The AQI for Gridley yesterday was **42** which is considered Good. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **35**. At this level the air quality is rated **GOOD**.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. The District recommends people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. Based on the visibility yesterday the air quality in Oroville was Moderate. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **MODERATE**.

Paradise: The AQI for Paradise yesterday was **164** which is considered Unhealthy for all People. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **105**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

Magalia: The AQI for Magalia yesterday was **110** which is considered Unhealthy For Sensitive People. Today the AQI in Magalia is forecast to reach **105**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 16, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update to notify the public that the high air pollution levels seen throughout the past several weeks have improved throughout the county. However, fires in the North State continue to burn although growth has slowed. As a result there continues to be visible haze and smoke in the county. The recommended activity restrictions issued earlier this week are in effect for sensitive people in the areas that continue to have reduced visibility. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly. The Air Quality Index (AQI) and Visibility Chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. Any value above 100 on the AQI chart is considered unhealthy. The AQI reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality will reach levels above and below the average.

Chico: The AQI for Chico yesterday was **45** which is considered Good. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **65**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Gridley: The AQI for Gridley yesterday was **62** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **75**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Oroville: There is not a PM2.5 monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. The District recommends people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. Based on the visibility yesterday the air quality in Oroville was Moderate. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **MODERATE**.

Paradise: The AQI for Paradise yesterday was **58** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **115**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

Magalia: The AQI for Magalia yesterday was **95** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Magalia is forecast to reach **125**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 17, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Air Quality Update to notify the public that the high air pollution levels seen throughout the past several weeks have improved throughout the county. However, fires in the North State continue to burn although growth has slowed. As a result there continues to be visible haze and smoke in the county. The recommended activity restrictions issued earlier this week are in effect for sensitive people in the areas that continue to have reduced visibility. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly. The Air Quality Index (AQI) and Visibility Chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. Any value above 100 on the AQI chart is considered unhealthy. The AQI reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality will reach levels above and below the average.

Chico: The AQI for Chico yesterday was **68** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **85**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Gridley: The AQI for Gridley yesterday was **55** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **55**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. The District recommends people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. Based on the visibility yesterday the air quality in Oroville was Moderate. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **MODERATE**.

Paradise: The AQI for Paradise yesterday was **89** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **170**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Magalia: The AQI for Magalia yesterday was **105** which is considered Unhealthy for Sensitive People. Today the AQI in Magalia is forecast to reach **125**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 18, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

Air quality continues to be improved over previous weeks. However, until the fires in the North State are extinguished there will be visible haze and smoke in the county, primarily in the foothill areas. The recommended activity restrictions issued previously are in effect for the areas that continue to have reduced visibility. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly. The Air Quality Index (AQI) and Visibility Chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. Any value above 100 on the AQI chart is considered unhealthy. The AQI reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality can reach levels above and below the average during the day.

Chico: The AQI for Chico yesterday was **96** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **70**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Gridley: The AQI for Gridley yesterday was **57** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **60**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. The District recommends people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. Based on the visibility yesterday the air quality in Oroville was Moderate. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **MODERATE**.

Paradise: The AQI for Paradise yesterday was **162** which is considered Unhealthy for All People. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **145**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

Magalia: The AQI for Magalia yesterday was **113** which is considered Unhealthy for Sensitive People. Today the AQI in Magalia is forecast to reach **100**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 19, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

More smoke and haze have returned to the valley and foothills. Until the fires in the North State are extinguished there will be reduced visibility in the county, primarily in the foothill areas. The recommended activity restrictions issued previously are in effect for the areas that continue to have reduced visibility. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly. The Air Quality Index (AQI) and Visibility Chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. Any value above 100 on the AQI chart is considered unhealthy. The AQI reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality can reach levels above and below the average during the day.

Chico: The AQI for Chico yesterday was **84** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **120**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

Gridley: The AQI for Gridley yesterday was **65** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **60**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Oroville: There is not a PM2.5 monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. The District recommends people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. Based on the visibility yesterday the air quality in Oroville was Moderate. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **MODERATE**.

Paradise: The AQI for Paradise yesterday was **138** which is considered Unhealthy for Sensitive People. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **170**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Magalia: The AQI for Magalia yesterday was **135** which is considered Unhealthy for Sensitive People. Today the AQI in Magalia is forecast to reach **140**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 20, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

There continues to be smoke and haze in the valley and foothills. Until the fires in the North State are extinguished there will be reduced visibility in the county, primarily in the foothill areas. The recommended activity restrictions issued previously are in effect for the areas that continue to have reduced visibility. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly. The Air Quality Index (AQI) and Visibility Chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. Any value above 100 on the AQI chart is considered unhealthy. The AQI reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality can reach levels above and below the average during the day.

Chico: The AQI for Chico yesterday was **108** which is considered Unhealthy for Sensitive People. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **65**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Gridley: The AQI for Gridley yesterday was **84** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **65**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Oroville: There is not a PM2.5 monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. The District recommends people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. Based on the visibility yesterday the air quality in Oroville was Moderate. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **MODERATE**.

Paradise: The AQI for Paradise yesterday was **157** which is considered Unhealthy for All People. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **155**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Magalia: The AQI for Magalia yesterday was **112** which is considered Unhealthy for Sensitive People. Today the AQI in Magalia is forecast to reach **135**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 21, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

There continues to be smoke and haze in the valley and foothills. While the fires in the North State are close to being fully contained, there remains reduced visibility in the county, primarily in the foothill areas. The recommended activity restrictions issued previously are in effect for the areas that continue to have reduced visibility. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly. The Air Quality Index (AQI) and Visibility Chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. Any value above 100 on the AQI chart is considered unhealthy. The AQI reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality can reach levels above and below the average during the day.

Chico: The AQI for Chico yesterday was **62** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **45**. At this level the air quality is rated **GOOD**.

Gridley: The AQI for Gridley yesterday was **54** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **10**. At this level the air quality is rated **GOOD**.

Oroville: There is not a PM2.5 monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. The District recommends people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. Based on the visibility yesterday the air quality in Oroville was Moderate. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **GOOD**.

Paradise: The AQI for Paradise yesterday was **94** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **75**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Magalia: The AQI for Magalia yesterday was **99** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Magalia is forecast to reach **125**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

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W. James Wagoner
Air Pollution Control Officer

Robert McLaughlin
Asst. Air Pollution Control Officer

PRESS RELEASE

July 22, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

There continues to be smoke and haze in the valley and foothills. While the fires in the North State are close to being fully contained, there remains reduced visibility in the county, primarily in the foothill areas. The recommended activity restrictions issued previously are in effect for the areas that continue to have reduced visibility. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly. The Air Quality Index (AQI) and Visibility Chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. Any value above 100 on the AQI chart is considered unhealthy. The AQI reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality can reach levels above and below the average during the day.

Chico: The AQI for Chico yesterday was **52** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **55**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Gridley: The AQI for Gridley yesterday was **28** which is considered Good. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **40**. At this level the air quality is rated **GOOD**.

Oroville: There is not a PM_{2.5} monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. The District recommends people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. Based on the visibility yesterday the air quality in Oroville was Moderate. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **MODERATE**.

Paradise: The AQI for Paradise yesterday was **81** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **105**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

Magalia: The AQI for Magalia yesterday was **94** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Magalia is forecast to reach **120**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 23, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

There continues to be smoke and haze in the valley and foothills. While the fires in the North State are close to being fully contained, there remains reduced visibility in the county, primarily in the foothill areas. The recommended activity restrictions issued previously are in effect for the areas that continue to have reduced visibility. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly. The Air Quality Index (AQI) and Visibility Chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. Any value above 100 on the AQI chart is considered unhealthy. The AQI reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality can reach levels above and below the average during the day.

Chico: The AQI for Chico yesterday was **52** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **125**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Gridley: The AQI for Gridley yesterday was **46** which is considered Good. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **90**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Oroville: There is not a PM2.5 monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. The District recommends people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. Based on the visibility yesterday the air quality in Oroville was Moderate. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as **VERY UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Paradise: The AQI for Paradise yesterday was **82** which is considered Unhealthy for all people. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **190**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

Magalia: The AQI for Magalia yesterday was **80** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Magalia is forecast to reach **170**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 24, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

Increased fire activity in Trinity County, light winds and high pressure are responsible for the resurgence in smoke to the county, even though the fires in the North State are close to being fully contained. There will continue to be reduced visibility in the county, primarily in the foothill areas. The recommended activity restrictions issued previously are in effect for the areas that continue to have reduced visibility. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly. The Air Quality Index (AQI) and Visibility Chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. Any value above 100 on the AQI chart is considered unhealthy. The AQI reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality can reach levels above and below the average during the day. Yesterday the monitor sited in Magalia was relocated to Oroville. The Paradise air quality information and forecast can be used for the Magalia/Upper Ridge area.

Chico: The AQI for Chico yesterday was **125** which is considered Unhealthy for sensitive groups. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **120**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Gridley: The AQI for Gridley yesterday was **73** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **65**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Oroville: A PM_{2.5} monitor was relocated to Oroville yesterday afternoon. Today the AQI in Oroville is forecast to reach **85**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**.

Paradise: The AQI for Paradise yesterday was **168** which is considered Unhealthy for all people. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **180**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE**.

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PRESS RELEASE

July 25, 2008 - Updated 3:30 PM

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

Increased fire activity in Trinity County, light winds and high pressure are responsible for the resurgence in smoke to the county the last few days, even though the fires Butte County are close to being fully contained. There will continue to be reduced visibility in the county. The recommended activity restrictions issued previously are in effect for all of Butte County. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly. The Air Quality Index (AQI) and Visibility Chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. Any value above 100 on the AQI chart is considered unhealthy. The AQI reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality can reach levels above and below the average during the day. The Paradise air quality information and forecast can be used for the Magalia/Upper Ridge area.

Chico: The updated AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **140**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Gridley: The updated AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **150**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Oroville: The updated AQI in Oroville is forecast to reach **165**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY**.

Paradise: The updated AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **140**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

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W. James Wagoner
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Robert McLaughlin
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PRESS RELEASE

July 26, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

Increased fire activity in Trinity County, light winds and high pressure are responsible for the resurgence in smoke to the county the last few days, even though the fires in Butte County are close to being fully contained. There will continue to be reduced visibility in the county. The recommended activity restrictions issued previously are in effect for the entire area of Butte County. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly. The Air Quality Index (AQI) and Visibility Chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. Any value above 100 on the AQI chart is considered unhealthy. The AQI reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality can reach levels above and below the average during the day. The Paradise air quality information and forecast can be used for the Magalia/Upper Ridge area.

Chico: The AQI for Chico yesterday was **140** which is considered Unhealthy for sensitive groups. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **150**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Gridley: The AQI for Gridley yesterday was **148** which is considered Unhealthy for sensitive groups. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **125**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Oroville: Yesterday, the monitoring data for Oroville is incomplete. Based on the available information, the air quality was Unhealthy. Today the AQI in Oroville is forecast to reach **160**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY**.

Paradise: The AQI for Paradise yesterday was **110** which is considered Unhealthy for sensitive groups. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **130**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

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W. James Wagoner
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PRESS RELEASE

July 27, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

Onshore transport flow in the valley today. The majority of the smoke within the county has cleared out today due to the southerly winds. There will continue to be pockets of smoke in various areas and reduced visibility in the foothills. The recommended activity restrictions issued previously are in effect for the areas within the county that continue to have reduced visibility. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly. The Air Quality Index (AQI) and Visibility Chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. Any value above 100 on the AQI chart is considered unhealthy. The AQI reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality can reach levels above and below the average during the day.

Chico: The AQI for Chico yesterday was **148** which is considered Unhealthy for sensitive groups. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **45**. At this level the air quality is rated **GOOD**.

Gridley: The AQI for Gridley yesterday was **98** which is considered Unhealthy for sensitive groups. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **45**. At this level the air quality is rated **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**.

Oroville: The AQI for Gridley yesterday was **155** which is considered Unhealthy. Today the AQI in Oroville is forecast to reach **45**. At this level the air quality is rated **GOOD**.

Paradise: The AQI for Paradise yesterday was **125** which is considered Unhealthy for sensitive groups. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **100**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**

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PRESS RELEASE

July 28, 2008

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The onshore transport flow continues in the valley today, and with it, the southerly winds that have been clearing the smoke from the valley since Sunday. Smoke continues to impact areas to the north and east and there may be remaining pockets of smoke in various areas and reduced visibility in the foothills. The recommended activity restrictions issued previously are in effect for the areas within the county that continue to have reduced visibility. Keep in mind that air quality can change rapidly at different times during the day due to wind shifts; therefore, it is important to monitor the smoke throughout the day in your area and make outdoor plans accordingly. The Air Quality Index (AQI) and Visibility Chart below may be used to estimate the air quality in your area.

Below is a summary of the air monitoring data collected. Any value above 100 on the AQI chart is considered unhealthy. The AQI reported is based on the monitored 24-hour average of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) at each site. Since the AQI is an average, air quality can reach levels above and below the average during the day.

Chico: The AQI for Chico yesterday was **23** which is considered Good. Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach **25**. At this level the air quality is rated **GOOD**.

Gridley: The AQI for Gridley yesterday was **19** which is considered Good. Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach **25**. At this level the air quality is rated **GOOD**.

Oroville: The AQI for Oroville yesterday was **23** which is considered Good. Today the AQI in Oroville is forecast to reach **45**. At this level the air quality is rated **GOOD**.

Paradise: The AQI for Paradise yesterday was **58** which is considered Moderate. Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach **55**. At this level the air quality is rated **MODERATE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 29, 2008

NOTICE OF AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is issuing this Notice of Air Quality Improvement to notify the public that the high air pollution levels seen over the past several weeks have fallen below advisory levels. Weather conditions have allowed ambient concentrations of fine particulate matter PM2.5 to decrease to healthful levels in Butte County. The recommended activity restrictions issued previously are no longer in effect.

Information will be updated and posted to the District website as available at WWW.BCAQMD.ORG.

###

**Smoke Episode Coordination Meeting
Butte County Public Health and
Butte County Air Quality Management District
September 4, 2008**

- 1. Air Quality Summary**
- 2. Review of smoke episodes to-date**
 - a. Adequacy of monitoring network**
 - **Air Resources Board assistance**
 - **Number, type and placement of monitors**
 - **Adequacy of monitors at high particulate levels**
 - **Use of visibility guide**
 -
 - b. Use/Reporting of information**
 - **Air Quality forecasting**
 - **What data is reported: concentration (averaging time?), AQI and/or AQI category?**
 - **Joint advisories or separate agency advisories?**
 - **Frequency of advisories**
 - **Reporting of precautionary measures**
 -
 - c. Reporting the message**
 - **Media**

- **Public outreach (website, pre-recorded messages, consistent message - masks)**
- **Focused daily psa's during extended smoke episodes**
- **Handling special events, athletic events, etc.**
- **Air Quality alerts thru NOAA**
-

3. Review of July Wildfire Smoke Guide

- a. **Pre-season meeting with interested parties**
- b. **Cal/OSHA interim guidance for protecting workers in offices and indoor workplaces**
- c.