

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | Sept. 6, 2022

Department of Environmental Quality urges caution during smoky conditions

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality advises residents, especially those with respiratory conditions, to consider limiting prolonged outdoor activities while smoky conditions remain across the state. Wildfires in the western part of the United States and Canada are sending smoke across North Dakota.

Extremely small particles of ash and soot, or particulate matter, have been increasing over the last few hours across North Dakota. Particulate matter can irritate the respiratory system, especially for those who suffer from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or conditions such as asthma and allergies. Environmental Quality advises people with respiratory conditions, the elderly, and young children to avoid prolonged outdoor exposure.

High particulate numbers, coupled with higher temperatures over the next few days, could heighten the complications. People reacting to smoke to the extent that it affects breathing should seek immediate help from a medical provider.

Environmental Quality is closely monitoring its air sampling network across the state. If conditions worsen, the department will follow up with additional information.

For up-to-date information on the region's current air quality visit airnow.gov. Tips on respiratory protection during a smoke event are available under the wildfires topic.

For more information, contact:

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