Wildfire smoke from WA and Canada impact Lane County air quality

Northerly flows brought in smoke from Canada and Washington into the Willamette Valley on Sunday. Air quality monitors in Eugene and surrounding areas are recording high Moderate levels on the Air Quality Index (AQI). The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency is issuing an air quality advisory from Monday 10 AM until Thursday 6 AM.

Wildfire smoke is more prominent this time of year, and the high temperatures have elevated fire danger around the state.

Residents who are sensitive to smoke are advised to use caution when participating in outdoor activities or to wait out the smoke for a couple days. Conditions will worsen overnight before starting to clear Wednesday evening with onshore flows. However, the public should be expecting more smoke impacts periodically until the wildfire season is over.

Fine particles from smoke called PM 2.5 are easily inhaled and enter the bloodstream and lungs. It can aggravate existing respiratory and cardiovascular conditions and is especially harmful to children and seniors.

Lane County Public Health advises special considerations during periods of poor air quality:

- Individuals who have preexisting lung conditions or who are very young or very old are advised to stay indoors if possible and close windows and doors.

- During periods of poor air quality, everyone is encouraged to avoid strenuous outdoor activity.

- People exposed to smoky conditions and who suffer from asthma or other respiratory problems should follow their breathing treatment plans or contact their healthcare providers.

- Use high efficiency particulate air filters (HEPA filters) or electrostatic precipitator filters (ESP filters) if you can. These can help clean indoor air.

LRAPA’s monitors are updated hourly and can be followed here: http://www.lrapa.org/216/Todays-Current-Air-Quality

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