



News Release

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For Immediate Release

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Air Quality Alert Issued for Smoke Today Through Thursday

The Clark County Department of Air Quality (DAQ) issued an alert today due to smoke from the Carpenter wildfire burning in Mount Charleston, local weather conditions, and existing levels of pollutants. The alert, the highest form of public warning, will be in effect through today through Thursday.

Smoke is made of small particles and other pollutants that can aggravate respiratory diseases.

At this time, unhealthy levels of air pollution are imminent or occurring. Air Quality officials will continue to monitor conditions and will post an update on the forecast page of the DAQ website if unhealthy levels cease. A link to the forecast page is located at <http://redrock.clarkcountynv.gov/forecast/>.

Information on the fire can be found on the following website: <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3481>

Airborne smoke/dust is a form of inhalable air pollution called particulate matter, or PM, which aggravates respiratory diseases such as bronchitis and asthma. It may be best for children, the elderly, and people with respiratory diseases to stay indoors. Other suggestions include:

- If you work outdoors, consider wearing a surgical mask. This will help reduce your exposure to dust and particulates.
- Limit outdoor exertion. Exercise, for example, makes you breathe heavier and increases the amount of particulates you are likely to inhale.
- Keep windows closed. Run your air conditioner inside your house and car. Your air conditioner filters out dust and particulates.
- Consider changing your indoor air filters if they are dirty.
- Use your prescription allergy medication or over-the-counter hay fever or sinus medications if you experience symptoms of itchy eyes, a runny nose, or congestion.

Detailed air quality conditions are posted in the monitoring section of the DAQ website. You can receive free air quality forecasts and advisories via e-mail or text message through Enviroflash service. Subscription information is available at www.enviroflash.org.

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Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 12th-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2 million citizens and 43 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 8th-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The County also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to almost 900,000 residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development.

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