



# MONO COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

## Public Health Division

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Mono County Issues Public Health Advisory Due to Hazardous Air Quality**

**MONO COUNTY, Calif. (SEPTEMBER 08, 2025)** – Wildfire smoke from the Garnet Fire has caused extremely unhealthy and hazardous air quality conditions across Mono County. Air Quality Index (AQI) readings are exceeding 1,000 in some Eastern Sierra communities, posing serious risks to public health.

*“Air quality today has reached extremely dangerous levels due to wildfire smoke — a rare event that makes the air hazardous to breathe and capable of causing serious health problems, even in the short term,”* said Dr. Tom Boo, Mono County Public Health Officer. *“Residents and visitors are urged to protect themselves, and encouraged to stay inside when possible with windows closed. Additionally, use an air cleaner if you have one, and turn off evaporative coolers. If you must go out, wear an N95 mask, available for free at Mono County Public Health offices.”*

### **Health Risks and Protective Actions**

Exposure to wildfire smoke can cause both short- and long-term health problems, including difficulty breathing, aggravated asthma, lung and heart disease, dementia, and increased risk of infection. Sensitive groups such as children, older adults, pregnant women, outdoor workers, and those with chronic illnesses are especially vulnerable.

To reduce health risks:

- Stay indoors with windows and doors closed (if you can keep air cleaner inside).
- Use an air cleaner if available, and turn off evaporative/swamp coolers.
- Set air conditioners to recirculate.
- Avoid physical exertion during smoky periods.
- Wear an N95 respirator if you must go outside. Free N95 masks are available at Mono County Public Health offices.
- Seek medical attention if you experience symptoms such as difficulty breathing, chest pain, or prolonged coughing.

**Clean Air Centers**

Residents and visitors can access Clean Air Centers today (September 8, 2025) to protect themselves from hazardous smoke:

- Walker Senior Center | 10:00am – 2:30pm
- Bridgeport Memorial Hall | 10:00am – 7:00pm
- Lee Vining Community Center | 10:00am – 7:00pm
- June Lake Community Center | 10:00am – 7:00pm
- Mammoth Lakes Community Center (1000 Forest Trail) | 10:00am – 7:00pm
- Crowley Lake Community Center | 10:00am – 5:30pm
- Chalfant Community Center | 10:00am – 7:00pm

Mono County and Great Basin Unified APCD will continue to monitor smoke conditions, which are expected to persist for the next several days depending on fire activity and weather patterns

For more information, questions, or concerns, please call Mono County Public Health at (760) 924-1830.

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