

# Air Quality Warning - Wildfire Smoke — May 7, 2025

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The Regions of BC highlighted on the map are being impacted or are likely to be impacted by wildfire smoke over the next 24-48 hours.

here

During a wildfire, smoke conditions can change quickly over short distances and can vary considerably hour-by-hour.

Monitor the situation for any wildfires near your area at [EmergencyInfoBC](#). Follow all emergency announcements relevant to your location.

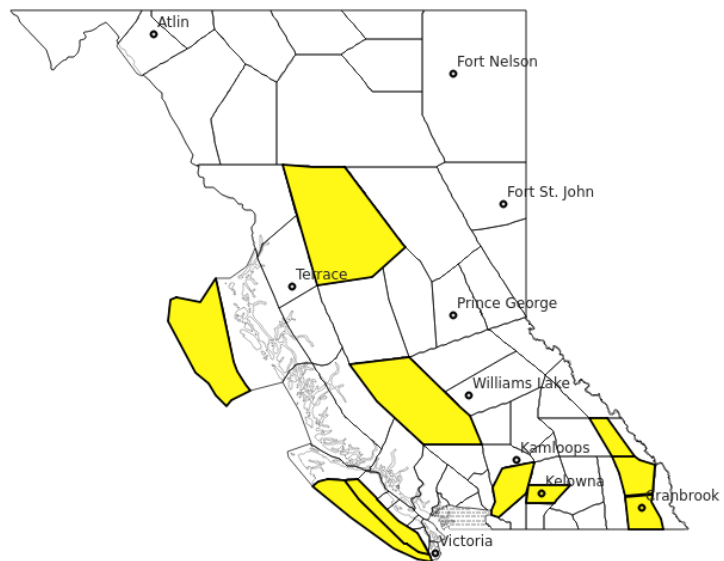
The next update will be available on May 8, 2025 and made available on the [Province's Air Quality Warning webpage](#).

## Actions you can take

As smoke levels increase, health risks increase. Limit time outdoors. Consider reducing or rescheduling outdoor sports, activities and events.

People more likely to be negatively impacted by outdoor air pollution should reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors or seek medical attention if experiencing symptoms.

This includes people aged 65 and older, pregnant individuals, infants and young children, people with an existing illness or chronic health condition such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart disease and diabetes, and people who work outdoors.



A description of Region(s) included in this Air Quality Warning is provided at the end of this document. This Air Quality Warning excludes the area managed by Metro Vancouver. Refer to the More information section for a link to air quality notifications issued by Metro Vancouver.

## **Follow your common sense**

- Stop or reduce your activity level if breathing becomes uncomfortable or you feel unwell.
- Stay cool and drink plenty of fluids.
- Carry any rescue medications with you at all times.
- Make sure that children and others who cannot care for themselves follow the same advice.

## **Monitor your symptoms**

- Different people have different responses to smoke.
- Mild irritation and discomfort such as eye, nose and throat irritation, headaches or a mild cough are common, and usually disappear when the smoke clears.
- More serious but less common symptoms include wheezing, chest pains or severe cough.
- People with asthma or other chronic illness should follow any personal care plans designed with their family physicians.
- If you are unsure whether you need medical care, call HealthLink BC at 8-1-1.
- If you are experiencing difficulty in breathing, chest pain or discomfort, or a severe cough, contact your physician, walk-in clinic, or emergency department. If you are having a medical emergency, call 9-1-1.

## **Tips to reduce your smoke exposure**

- Smoke levels may be lower indoors but will still be elevated, so stay aware of your symptoms even when you are indoors.
- When indoors, keep windows and doors closed as much as possible.
- When there is an extreme heat event occurring with poor air quality, prioritize keeping cool.
- Protect your indoor air from wildfire smoke. Actions can include using a clean, good quality air filter in your ventilation system and/or a certified portable air cleaner that can filter fine particles.
- If you must spend time outdoors, a well-constructed, well-fitting and properly worn respirator type mask (such as a NIOSH-certified N95 or equivalent respirator) can reduce your exposure to the fine particles in the smoke. Even though exposure may be reduced, there can still be risks to health.
- Check in on others who are in your care or live nearby who may be more likely to be impacted by wildfire smoke.
- Always follow guidance from local authorities.

## More information

### For additional general information about wildfire smoke and air quality:

Air quality notifications issued by Metro Vancouver

- For air quality notifications issued by Metro Vancouver ([map](#)), visit their [Air Quality Data and Warnings page](#)

Air Quality Data

- Air Quality Health Index: [gov.bc.ca/airqualityhealthindex](http://gov.bc.ca/airqualityhealthindex)
- Air Quality Map: [gov.bc.ca/airqualitymap](http://gov.bc.ca/airqualitymap)

Wildfire smoke forecasts

- Environment and Climate Change Canada FireWork prediction system: [https://weather.gc.ca/firework/index\\_e.html](https://weather.gc.ca/firework/index_e.html)
- BlueSky Canada smoke forecasting system: <https://firesmoke.ca/forecasts/current>

### For additional general information about wildfire smoke and your health:

BC Centre for Disease Control

- Wildfire smoke and your health: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/prevention-public-health/wildfire-smoke>

Provincial Health Authorities

- First Nations Health Authority: <http://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/environmental-health/wildfire-information>
- Interior Health Authority: For resources related to forest fire smoke exposure, air quality, food safety when the power is out and ensuring your drinking water is safe visit <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/natural-disasters-and-emergencies>.

## HealthLink BC

- Wildfires and your health: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/more/health-features/wildfires-and-your-health>
- Phone 8-1-1 (toll free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

## Worksafe BC

- For information about working outdoors during smoky conditions, see the wildfire FAQ website: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/information-sheets/wildfire-smoke-frequently-asked-questions-faq>.

## Contact information

### **Media and public inquiries regarding air quality and the Air Quality Warning for wildfire smoke:**

Gail Roth, Senior Air Quality Meteorologist, Ministry of Environment and Parks, 250-645-9358.

### **Media questions regarding health implications of wildfires:**

First Nations Health Authority  
Environmental Public Health Services or Main FNHA Line: 604-693-6500  
After Hours: 1-844-666-0711  
Email: [Ephs.afterhours@fnha.ca](mailto:Ephs.afterhours@fnha.ca)  
Media line: 604-831-4898

Interior Health Authority  
Media line: 1-844-469-7077  
Email: [media@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:media@interiorhealth.ca)

Northern Health Authority  
Media Line: 1-877-961-7724

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority  
Rachel Galligan, Communications Leader: 236-833-5618  
Deana Lancaster, Communications Leader: 604-230-6130  
After-hours media line: 604-202-2012

Vancouver Island Health Authority  
Dominic Abassi: 250-755-7966 ([Dominic.abassi@viha.ca](mailto:Dominic.abassi@viha.ca))  
Andrew Leyne: 250-370-8908 ([Andrew.leyne@viha.ca](mailto:Andrew.leyne@viha.ca))  
After-hours media line: 250-716-7750

## Regions included under this Air Quality Warning

**Bulkley Valley** includes Hazelton, Smithers, Telkwa, and Granisle.

**Central Okanagan** includes Kelowna, Lake Country, West Kelowna and Peachland.

**Chilcotin** includes Hansville, Alexis Creek, Chilanko Forks, Tatla Lake, Nimpo Lake, Anahim Lake, and the southern half of Tweedsmuir Park.

**East Columbia** includes Golden.

**East Kootenay (North)** includes Edgewater, Invermere, Canal Flats and Skookumchuck.

**East Kootenay (South)** includes Kimberley, Cranbrook, Yahk, Moyie, Wasa Lake Provincial Park, Jaffray, Grasmere and Roosville.

**Inland Vancouver Island** includes Lake Cowichan, Nahmint, Port Alberni, central portions of Strathcona Park and Schoen Lake Provincial Park.

**Nicola** includes Merritt, Stump Lake, Pennask Lake, and Brookmere.

**West Vancouver Island** includes Tofino, Uclulet, Port Renfrew, Sooke.