

Harris County
HCPHES
Public Health & Environmental Services

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Air Quality Health Advisory

Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) has issued an Air Quality Health Advisory concerning small particulate matter including smoke, soot and dust. This advisory applies to the northwest corner of Harris County that is downwind from the fires. Currently, the affected areas extend from the northwest border of the Harris County line as far east as Roberts Cemetery Road and as far south as Bauer Hockley Road.

Based on current conditions, the air quality index levels may vary between moderate and unhealthy as described in the table below; with a potential for very unhealthy level if there are high wind speeds blowing directly downwind from the fire.

Sensitive groups such as people with heart or lung disease, the elderly, children and pregnant women may be affected more than the general population. Affected individuals should limit prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion and limit time spent outdoors. In addition, persons with asthma should follow their respective asthma management plan.

How to tell if smoke is affecting you or your family

Smoke can cause:

- Coughing
- Scratchy throat
- Irritated sinuses

- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Headaches
- Stinging eyes
- Runny nose

To protect yourself, you and your family should:

- Remain indoors and keep windows and doors closed
- Do not exercise outdoors
- When driving your car in smoky areas, keep your windows and vents closed
- If outdoor trips in smoky areas are necessary, breathe through a cloth to help filter out fine particles in the air.

Smoke might make symptoms worse if you have heart problems or lung disease such as asthma or chronic bronchitis. Contact your healthcare provider if you or your child develops symptoms such as wheezing, shortness of breath, chest pain, rapid heartbeat, light-headedness or dizziness.

Below is a chart indicating Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern.

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0 to 50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk
Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151 to 200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects
Hazardous	301 to 500	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.