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Page 1 of 1

Division of Public and Behavioral Health NEWS RELEASE

State Agencies Warn Nevadans about Rim Fire Smoke

The message is clear: when outside air quality is poor, protect your health

Carson City – The Public Health Preparedness Program of the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection urge northern Nevadans who reside or work in the plume of the Rim Fire to monitor outdoor air conditions, and to accordingly take health precautions while smoke is present.

- To check outdoor air quality in Gardnerville and Carson City, visit: <http://nvair.ndep.nv.gov>
- To check outdoor air quality in Washoe County, visit: <http://airnow.gov>

Since Thursday, August 22, when smoke from the Rim Fire was first noticed in the Reno-Carson-Douglas area, air quality has vacillated between the categories “unhealthy for sensitive groups,” “unhealthy,” “very unhealthy,” and “hazardous.” Regardless of your age or health status, it is wise to limit or eliminate exposure to outside air while these categories are present. Specific details and cautionary statements are found in near real time (hourly updates) on the websites.

Wildfire smoke contains gasses and fine particles from burning trees and other plant materials. Smoke may hurt your eyes, irritate your respiratory system, or worsen chronic heart and lung diseases.

For answers to health-related questions, please contact your health care professional, or call the Public Health Preparedness Program at: 775-684-5987.

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For information about the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, visit www.health.nv.gov.



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Richard Whitley, Administrator