

# 2020 Fire Seasons and Severe Smoke Events

## DEQ Roles and Responsibilities

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# Wildfire Smoke Response Protocol

- Incorporated lessons learned from 2019 Wildfire Season - mostly smaller edits
- Continued coordination with OHA, ODF and USFS on implementation of protocol
- DEQ will take a leading role in the coordination calls

## Oregon Wildfire Response Protocol for Severe Smoke Episodes

May 4, 2020

The following agencies collaborated on this guidance document:

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority  
Oregon Health Authority  
Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Oregon Emergency Management  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
U.S. Forest Service  
Bureau of Land Management



Cover Photos by:  
Carolyn Kelly and Nicole Bringsolf  
USFS  
Based on an agreement between the participating agencies, the original version of this multi-agency document is maintained by DEQ. All parties may collaborate on updates.

# Oregon Smoke Blog

- DEQ webpage that shows information on air quality, fires, and information on health
- Resource for consistent messaging
- Used frequently by the public to receive updated information – almost 1 million hits last year

Home Smoke and Health Air Quality Now Air Quality Forecasting Fire Info Local Contacts Webcams Because You Asked

Air Quality Now

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[Washington Smoke Blog](#)  
[Idaho Smoke Blog](#)  
[California Smoke Blog](#)

OR WATCHES, WARNINGS & ADVISORIES

**OREGON**  
DEQ's [Air Quality Index](#) – A daily index of air quality that reports air quality conditions at more than 30 monitors around Oregon and provides information on potential health risks. Oregon's index is based on three pollutants regulated by the federal Clean Air Act: ground-level ozone, particle pollution and nitrogen dioxide. You can also download the mobile app by searching for OregonAir on your smart phone.  
[Lane Regional Air Protection Agency](#) – Provides air quality information for Lane County.

**Nationwide**  
[EPA Air Now](#) – Provides air quality conditions across the U.S. and allows users to sign up for air quality alerts.  
[EPA Air Data](#) – This website provides access to outdoor air quality data collected from state, local and tribal monitoring agencies across the United States.  
[The Smog Blog](#) – A daily diary of air quality in the U.S. prepared using information from satellites, ground-based measurements and models. Interpretation and analysis provided by the staff of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and the Atmospheric Lidar Group.  
[MODIS Today and GOES West Visible Imagery](#) – Provide satellite images of smoke.

**BLOG ARCHIVE**  
▼ 2019 (17)  
▼ October (1)  
[Oregon's vacation from wildfire smoke](#)  
► September (2)  
► August (4)  
► July (7)  
► June (1)  
► May (2)  
► 2018 (285)

# Media & Communications

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- Respond to inquiries on current smoke impacts, historical data, and trends
- Use social media to provide resources and updates
- Coordinate with partners on messaging and responses
- Issue Air Quality Advisories
- Update Oregon Smoke Information Page

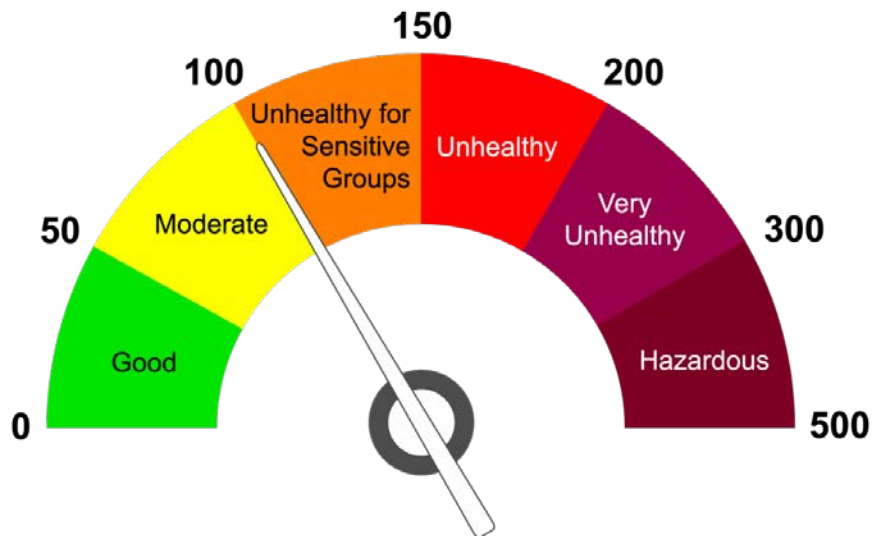


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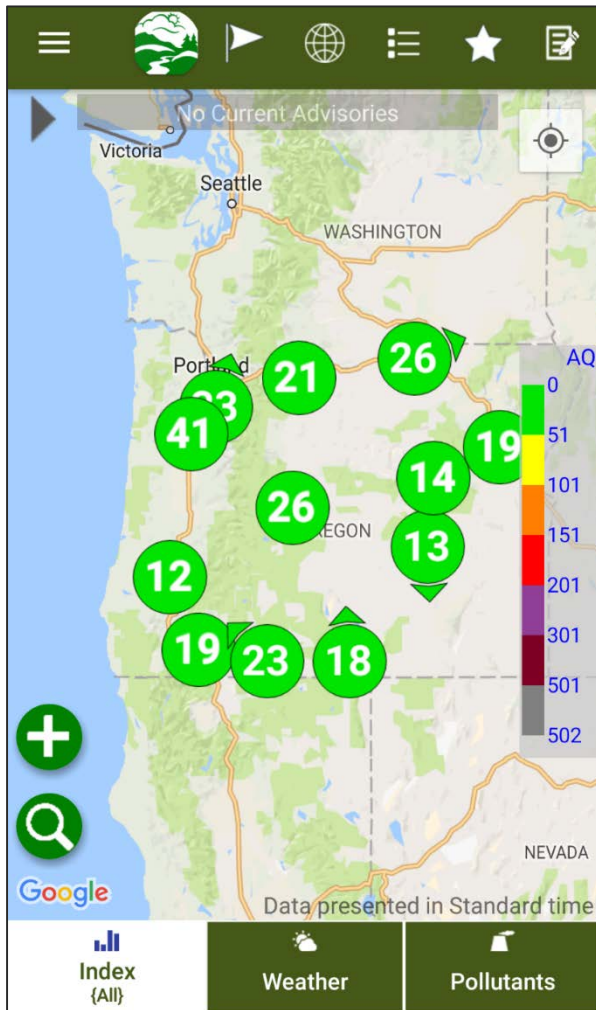
# Air Quality Monitoring Updates

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- The Air Quality Index, or AQI, is a tool developed by EPA to help communicate health risks to the public
- Monitoring data from DEQ's network is translated to a common scale that represents health risks



# AQI Mobile Application - 'OregonAir'



- Mobile application on the Apple and Google Store
- Real time information on AQI and pollutant values at DEQ monitoring sites
- Approximately 56 monitors deployed throughout Oregon with more on the way
- A 30% increase since this time last year



The map displays the state of Oregon with county boundaries indicated by dashed lines. Major cities labeled include Eugene, Medford, Bend, and Kennewick. National forests shown are Gifford Pinchot, Mt. Hood, Siskiyou, Willamette, Deschutes, Malheur, and Whitehorn. Other features include the Cascade Range, Blue Mountains, and Harney Basin. Monitoring sites are marked with symbols: purple triangles for AirToxics\_Sites, blue circles for PM2.5\_Sites, yellow circles for SensOR\_Sites, green squares for Ozone, and light green shaded areas for SSRAs. A legend in the top left corner defines these symbols, and a north arrow is located in the top left corner.

**\* As of February, 2020**

# Smoke Management Grant Update

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- 2019 Legislature appropriated \$250K to fund local prescribed fire smoke mitigation projects
- Some projects have co-benefits for Wildfire smoke
- Exciting progress on coordination and mitigation

City of Ashland

• \$110,000

City of Oakridge

• \$35,000

Baker County

• \$35,000

Lake County

• \$35,000

Wallowa County

• \$35,000



# Questions

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