



# Smoke Outlook

8/08 - 8/09

## Flathead Valley Big Knife, Niarada and Additional Fires

Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on August 08, 2023 at 08:00 AM MDT

### Fire

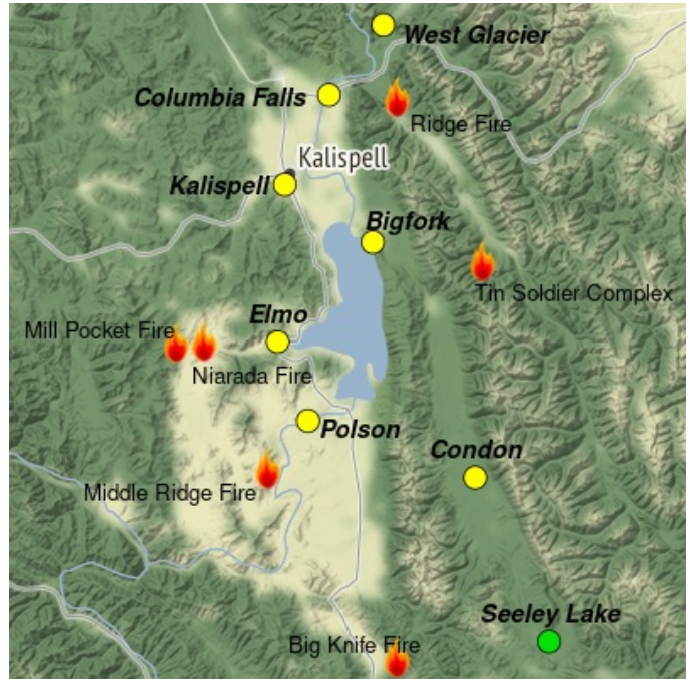
The Big Knife (5 mi east of Arlee), Niarada (12 mi west of Elmo), and Mill Pocket (3 mi west of Hwy 28) fires have been less active due to recent rainfall, cooler temperatures and higher humidity. That is expected to continue today but as warmer, drier weather returns tomorrow fuels will dry and fire activity is expected to increase. If conditions and visibility allow, strategic burnout operations may be conducted to establish or strengthen containment lines.

### Smoke

Generally GOOD to MODERATE air quality is expected throughout the forecast area today as cooler weather and higher humidity are moderating fire activity. Elmo, Kalispell and Columbia Falls will experience heaviest smoke levels in the morning. That smoke is expected to travel north and east, affecting Bigfork and West Glacier in the afternoon. The weather pattern will change after today and more smoke is expected as higher winds and warmer temperatures bring increased fire activity in the coming days.

### Additional Information

Multiple fires are affecting the area. For updates or additional details on any fire, go to "<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov>". Conditions can change quickly so remember - if you can see smoke or smell smoke, you are in smoke. Follow the "Actions to Protect Yourself" below.



Daily AQI Forecast\* for Tuesday

Station	Yesterday			Mon 8/07	Comment for Today -- Tue, Aug 08	Forecast*	
	hourly					Tue 8/08	Wed 8/09
Seeley Lake	6a	noon	6p	●	Cooler temperatures and higher humidity should continue Good air quality.	●	●
Polson	No hourly data				Expect MODERATE air quality throughout the day.	●	●
West Glacier	No hourly data				MODERATE air quality during the day, with possible USG during afternoon.	●	●
Bigfork	No hourly data				Air quality is expected to be MODERATE throughout the day.	●	●
Kalispell	No hourly data				Expect MODERATE air quality throughout the day.	●	●
Condon	No hourly data				Possible Moderate air quality midday, but weather should keep smoke levels low.	●	●
Columbia Falls	[Bar chart showing smoke levels]			●	Expect MODERATE most of the day with heaviest (USG level) smoke in the morning.	●	●
Elmo	[Bar chart showing smoke levels]			●	Expect USG to UNHEALTHY in the morning with clearing in the afternoon.	●	●

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Air Quality Index (AQI)	Actions to Protect Yourself
● Good	None
● Moderate	Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion.
● USG	People within Sensitive Groups* should <b>reduce</b> prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.
● Unhealthy	People within Sensitive Groups* should <b>avoid all</b> physical outdoor activity.
● Very Unhealthy	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
● Hazardous	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity.

\***Disclaimer:** This forecast is based on fine particulates only; ozone is not included. Forecasts may be wrong; use at own risk. Use caution as conditions can change quickly. See your health professional as needed. Smoke sensitive groups should take appropriate precautions.



Issued by Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program -- [www.wildlandfiresmoke.net](http://www.wildlandfiresmoke.net)

Flathead Valley Updates -- <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/78e08155>

\*Smoke and Health Info -- [www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health](http://www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health)