



# Smoke Outlook

## 8/09 - 8/10

### Flathead Valley Big Knife, Niarada and Additional Fires

Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on August 09, 2023 at 07:45 AM MDT

#### Fire

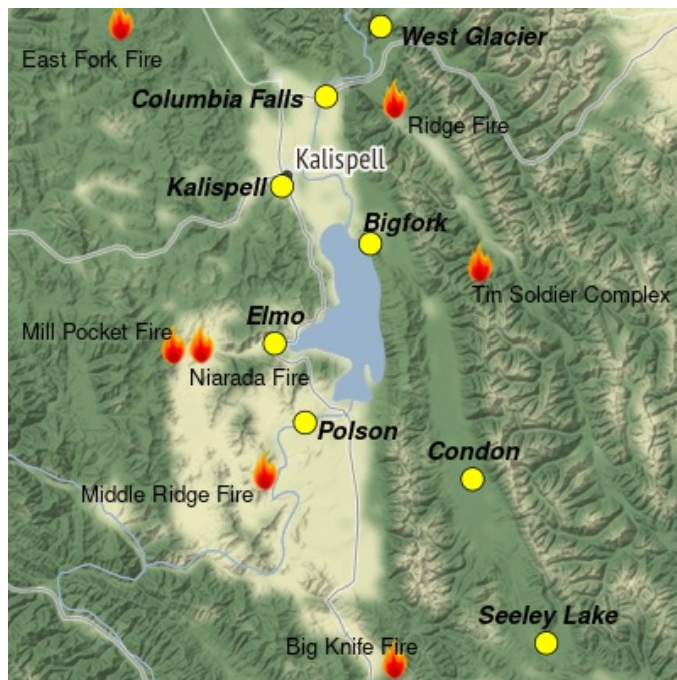
The Big Knife, Niarada, and Mill Pocket Fires had continued cooler temperatures and some moisture yesterday, keeping fire activity moderated. Warmer, drier weather returns today along with increased winds this afternoon. This weather will dry fuels so fire activity is expected to increase today and tomorrow. 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 recent cooler weather and higher humidity have reduced 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 West Glacier in the afternoon. Higher winds and warmer temperatures are expected to increase fire activity and smoke production today and tomorrow, but the winds may also help with clearing the smoke. As the winds die down, expect that increased smoke may return to the Valley in coming days.

#### Additional Information

Multiple fires are affecting the area. For updates or additional details on any fire, go to "<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov>". With gusty and erratic winds, smoke levels may change quickly. The most recent air quality conditions can be found at "<https://fire.airnow.gov/#>".



Daily AQI Forecast\* for Wednesday

Station	Yesterday hourly			Tue 8/08	Forecast* Comment for Today -- Wed, Aug 09	Wed 8/09	Thu 8/10
	6a	noon	6p				
Kalispell	No hourly data				Expect MODERATE air quality throughout the day.	●	●
Columbia Falls				●	Expect MODERATE most of the day with heaviest (USG level) smoke in mid-morning.	●	●
Condon	No hourly data				MODERATE air quality, though smoke from nearby fires may begin to increase.	●	●
Polson	No hourly data				Expect MODERATE air quality throughout the day.	●	●
Bigfork	No hourly data				MODERATE air quality expected throughout the day.	●	●
West Glacier	No hourly data				MODERATE air quality during the day, with possible UNHEALTHY afternoon air.	●	●
Elmo				●	Expect USG in the morning with clearing in the afternoon.	●	●
Seeley Lake				●	Air quality should remain GOOD, but smoke production may begin to increase.	●	●

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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)