



# Smoke Outlook

8/10 - 8/11

## Flathead Valley Big Knife, Niarada and Additional Fires

Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on August 10, 2023 at 07:21 AM MDT

### Fire

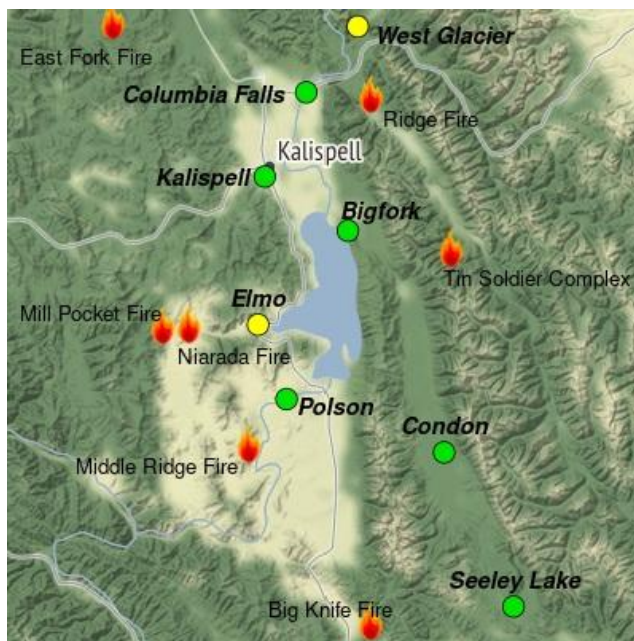
The Big Knife, Niarada, and Mill Pocket Fires had continued cooler temperatures and some rain yesterday, keeping fire activity moderated. Drier weather and increased winds return today and will dry fuels. This will allow fire activity to increase by this afternoon and over the next few days. Once conditions 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 yesterday's rain have reduced fire activity. Strong winds will clear any remaining smoke from most locations. Elmo 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 are expected to increase fire activity and smoke production today, but the winds may also help with clearing the smoke. As the winds die down in the coming days, expect increased smoke to return throughout the Valley.

### 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 Thursday

Station	Yesterday			Wed 8/09	Comment for Today -- Thu, Aug 10	Forecast*	
	hourly					Thu 8/10	Fri 8/11
Bigfork	No hourly data				Strong winds and cooler temperatures should keep GOOD air for most of the day.	●	●
West Glacier	No hourly data				GOOD to MODERATE air quality through the day, with possible USG around midday.	●	●
Seeley Lake				●	Air quality should remain GOOD as strong winds clear any remaining smoke.	●	●
Condon	No hourly data				GOOD to MODERATE air, with strong winds clearing much of the area's smoke.	●	●
Kalispell	No hourly data				Expect GOOD to MODERATE air quality throughout the day.	●	●
Polson	No hourly data				Expect MODERATE air in the morning, and GOOD as the day goes on.	●	●
Columbia Falls				●	Expect GOOD most of the day with MODERATE to USG level smoke in mid-morning.	●	●
Elmo				●	Expect possible USG 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)