



# Smoke Outlook

## Flathead Valley Big Knife, Niarada and Additional Fires

# 8/11 - 8/12

Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on August 11, 2023 at 07:17 AM MDT

### Fire

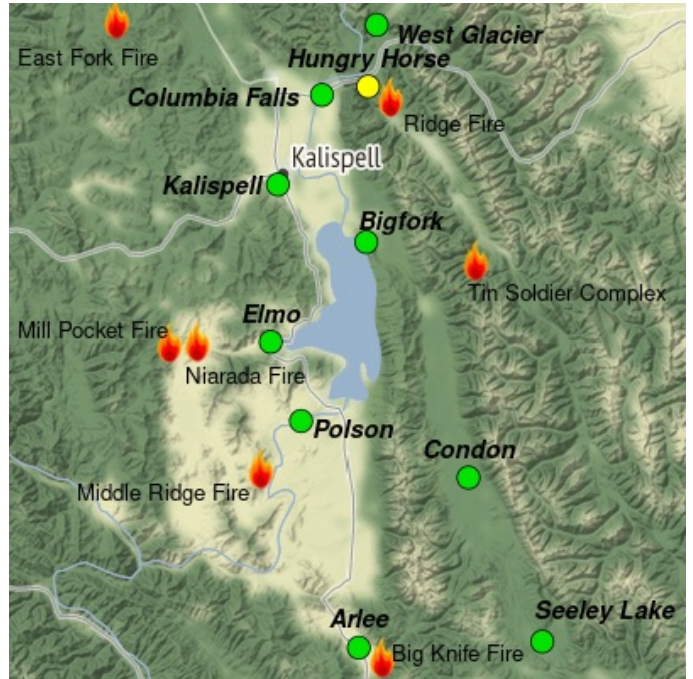
Fire activity on the Big Knife, Niarada, and Mill Pocket Fires continues to be suppressed due to cooler temperatures and recent moisture. Warmer, drier weather returns today, allowing continued smoldering. In some places smoldering fuels may reignite.

### Smoke

Generally GOOD to MODERATE air quality is expected throughout the forecast area today as fuels continue to dry from recent moisture. Smoke from the Ridge Fire is expected to affect Hungry Horse and West Glacier, with heaviest smoke in the morning and clearing in the afternoon. Smoke plumes will be visible from the Niarada, Mill Pocket, and Big Knife Fires where interior pockets of unburned fuel continue to smolder and may reignite. With lighter winds today smoke is expected to settle into the Flathead Valley bringing more haze to the area by tomorrow. In the coming days expect to see hazy conditions with clearing in the afternoon.

### Additional Information

Multiple fires are affecting the area. For updates or additional details on any fire, go to "<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov>". The most recent air quality conditions can be found at "<https://fire.airnow.gov/#>".



Daily AQI Forecast\* for Friday

Station	Yesterday			Thu 8/10	Comment for Today -- Fri, Aug 11	Forecast*	
	hourly					Fri 8/11	Sat 8/12
Bigfork	6a	noon	6p	●	Air should remain GOOD, even as fire activity increases.	●	●
Kalispell	No hourly data			●	Expect GOOD air quality throughout the day.	●	●
Seeley Lake	[Bar chart]			●	Air quality should remain GOOD due to limited fire activity.	●	●
Columbia Falls	[Bar chart]			●	Expect GOOD most of the day with MODERATE to USG level smoke in mid-morning.	●	●
Elmo	[Bar chart]			●	Any smoke in the area should clear by the early afternoon for GOOD air.	●	●
Polson	No hourly data			●	Expect MODERATE air in the morning, and GOOD as the day goes on.	●	●
Arlee	[Bar chart]			●	Air quality should remain GOOD as fire activity and smoke remains low.	●	●
West Glacier	No hourly data			●	GOOD to MODERATE air quality through the day, with possible USG around midday.	●	●
Hungry Horse	No hourly data			●	MODERATE-USG air in the morning, with clearing to GOOD air the rest of the day.	●	●
Condon	No hourly data			●	GOOD air quality for much of the day, with possible MODERATE around midday.	●	●

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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)