



Smoke Outlook

8/12 - 8/13

Flathead Valley Big Knife, Niarada and Additional Fires

Issued by Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program on August 12, 2023 at 07:48 AM MDT

Fire

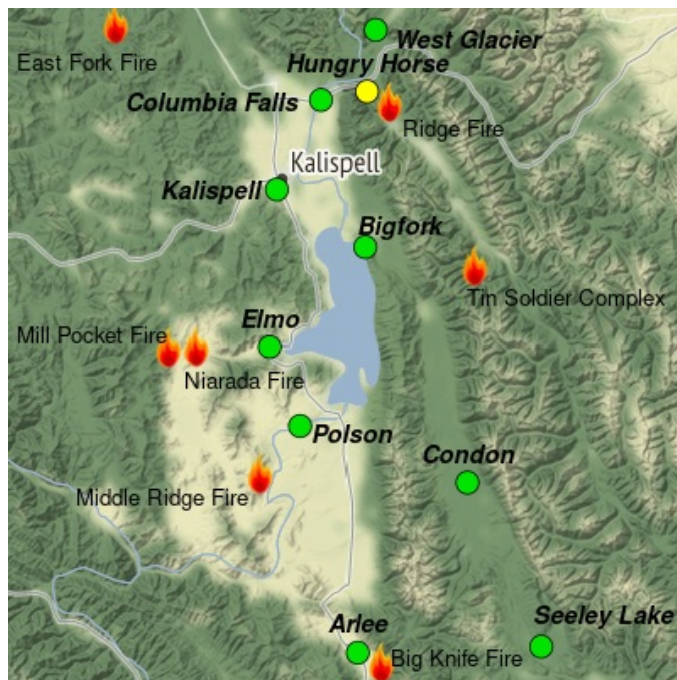
Fires were slightly more active yesterday as warmer, drier air returned to the Flathead Valley. There is a pause in the warming trend today but fuels will keep drying so expect fire activity to continue to increase throughout the weekend and into next week. Firefighters were able to make good progress on containment lines while fire activity was suppressed, so rapid fire spread is not expected but pockets of smoldering fuel in the interior of each fire are likely to reignite.

Smoke

Generally GOOD to MODERATE air quality is expected throughout the forecast area today as fuels continue to dry from recent moisture. This morning, smoke from the Ridge Fire is expected to reach UNHEALTHY at Hungry Horse and USG at West Glacier, but both locations should clear by afternoon. Smoke plumes will be visible from the Niarada, Mill Pocket, and Big Knife Fires where interior pockets of fuel continue to smolder and may reignite. Morning smoke in Elmo may reach USG level but it should clear by early afternoon. In the coming days expect to see some morning haze throughout the Valley with clearing in the afternoon.

Additional Information

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



Daily AQI Forecast* for Saturday

Station	Yesterday hourly			Fri 8/11	Comment for Today -- Sat, Aug 12	Forecast*	
	6a	noon	6p			Sat 8/12	Sun 8/13
Kalispell	No hourly data				Expect GOOD air quality throughout the day.	●	●
Columbia Falls				●	Expect GOOD most of the day with MODERATE level smoke in mid-morning.	●	●
Bigfork	No hourly data				Air should remain GOOD, even as fire activity increases.	●	●
Polson /Pablo	No hourly data				Expect GOOD air quality throughout the day.	●	●
West Glacier	No hourly data				GOOD to MODERATE air quality through the day, with likely USG air around midday.	●	●
Condon	No hourly data				GOOD air quality for much of the day, with possible MODERATE around midday.	●	●
Arlee				●	Air quality should remain GOOD as fire activity and smoke remains low.	●	●
Seeley Lake				●	Air quality should remain GOOD due to limited fire activity.	●	●
Hungry Horse	No hourly data				USG-UNHEALTHY air in the morning, with clearing to GOOD air the rest of the day.	●	●
Elmo				●	Morning smoke may reach USG but should clear by early afternoon.	●	●

Issued Aug 12, 2023 by Margaret Key, aramargaretkey@gmail.com & Adam Friedman, afriedmanara@gmail.com

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 reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.
● Unhealthy	People within Sensitive Groups* should avoid all 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.

