



# Smoke Outlook

## Flathead Valley Big Knife, Niarada and Additional Fires

# 8/13 - 8/14

Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on August 13, 2023 at 07:25 AM MDT

### Fire

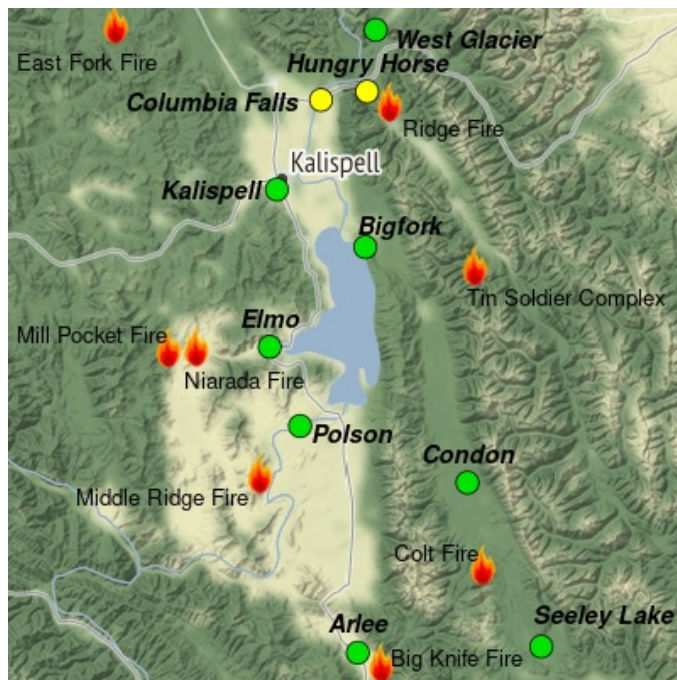
Higher temperatures and lowering humidity will gradually increase fire activity today, but no significant growth is expected at Niarada or Mill Pocket, with each fire more than 50% contained, nor at Big Knife. Ignition of unburnt trees within the perimeter of Niarada is likely to occur, as well as burning on the northwestern edge of Big Knife near Jocko Canyon. If conditions allow, a small burnout operation may be performed on edge of the Niarada Fire to secure containment lines.

### Smoke

With only a gradual increase of fire activity, smoke levels are not expected to significantly increase, as most locations should still expect GOOD to MODERATE air quality. However, a shift of winds to coming from the east may change the location of smoke. Hungry Horse could see air that is UNHEALTHY in the morning, while Columbia falls could see air that is UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS in the morning. Elmo may have improved quality with the shift in winds now blowing smoke from Niarada away from the area, while Arlee may see more smoke impacts, but still retain primarily GOOD to MODERATE air.

### Additional Information

While it has not been included in a forecast area, the Highway 28 corridor near Lonepine and Hot Springs may see increased levels of smoke due to the shift in wind direction. Please check "[fire.airnow.gov](#)" for current conditions.



Daily AQI Forecast\* for Sunday

Station	Yesterday hourly		Sat 8/12	Comment for Today -- Sun, Aug 13	Forecast*	
	6a	noon 6p			Sun 8/13	Mon 8/14
Kalispell	No hourly data		●	Expect GOOD air quality throughout the day.	●	●
Bigfork	No hourly data		●	Air should remain GOOD, even as fire activity increases.	●	●
West Glacier	No hourly data		●	GOOD to MODERATE air through the day, as a wind shift may keep smoke away.	●	●
Seeley Lake			●	Air quality should remain GOOD due to limited fire activity.	●	●
Condon	No hourly data		●	GOOD air quality for much of the day, with possible MODERATE around midday.	●	●
Elmo			●	GOOD air, with winds shifting to the east may help to keep smoke out of Elmo.	●	●
Polson /Pablo	No hourly data		●	Expect GOOD air quality throughout the day.	●	●
Arlee			●	GOOD air during the day, with possible smoke increase as winds shift to the east	●	●
Hungry Horse	No hourly data		●	USG-UNHEALTHY air in the morning, with clearing to GOOD air the rest of the day.	●	●
Columbia Falls			●	Expect GOOD most of the day with MODERATE to USG level smoke in mid-morning.	●	●

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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.

