



Smoke Outlook

8/14 - 8/15

Flathead Valley Big Knife, Niarada and Additional Fires

Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on August 14, 2023 at 08:03 AM MDT

Fire

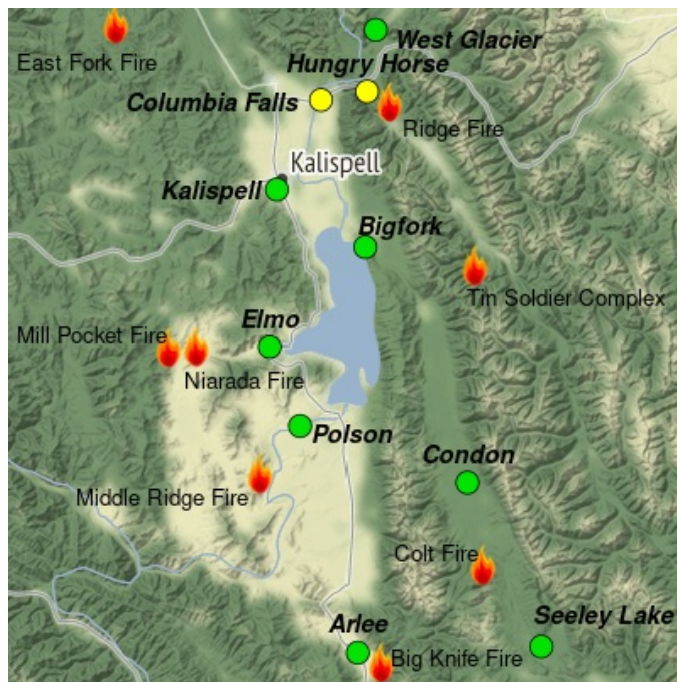
A strong high pressure system sets in over the area today, bringing high temperatures and lowering humidity for the next several days. Ignition of unburnt trees within the perimeter of Niarada is likely to occur, as well as burning on the northwestern edge of Big Knife near Jocko Canyon. If conditions allow, a small burnout operation may be performed on edge of the Niarada Fire to secure containment lines. Expect fire activity to increase gradually over the next few days as temperatures remain high and fuels continue to dry.

Smoke

With an increase of fire activity, smoke levels also expected to increase slightly today, but most locations should still expect GOOD to MODERATE air quality. Near the Ridge Fire, Hungry Horse has UNHEALTHY air quality this morning which may reach VERY UNHEALTHY before clearing, and Columbia falls will have USG to UNHEALTHY in the morning. Over the next few days there is little wind expected to clear the smoke so expect to see some gradual deterioration of air quality throughout the Flathead Valley.

Additional Information

Fire and smoke conditions can change quickly. Please check "[fire.airnow.gov](#)" for current conditions.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Monday

Station	Yesterday			Sun 8/13	Comment for Today -- Mon, Aug 14	Forecast*	
	hourly					Mon 8/14	Tue 8/15
Seeley Lake	6a	noon	6p		Air quality is expected to remain GOOD throughout the day.		
Kalispell	No hourly data				Expect GOOD to MODERATE air quality throughout the day.		
Bigfork	No hourly data				Air should remain GOOD to MODERATE, even as fire activity increases.		
Condon	No hourly data				GOOD air quality for much of the day, with possible MODERATE around midday.		
Polson /Pablo	No hourly data				Expect GOOD to MODERATE air quality throughout the day.		
Arlee					Expect GOOD to MODERATE air quality throughout the day.		
Columbia Falls					Expect USG level smoke this morning, clearing this afternoon.		
West Glacier	No hourly data				GOOD to MODERATE air quality is expected throughout the day.		
Hungry Horse	No hourly data				UNHEALTHY air in the morning, then clearing to GOOD by evening.		
Elmo					MODERATE TO USG air quality is expected this morning, clearing this afternoon.		

Issued Aug 14, 2023 by Margaret Key (aramargaretkey@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.



Issued by Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program -- [www.wildlandfiresmoke.net](#)
 Flathead Valley Updates -- <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/78e08155>
 *Smoke and Health Info -- [www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health](#)