



Smoke Outlook

Flathead Valley Big Knife, Niarada and Additional Fires

8/15 - 8/16

Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on August 15, 2023 at 07:54 AM MDT

Fire

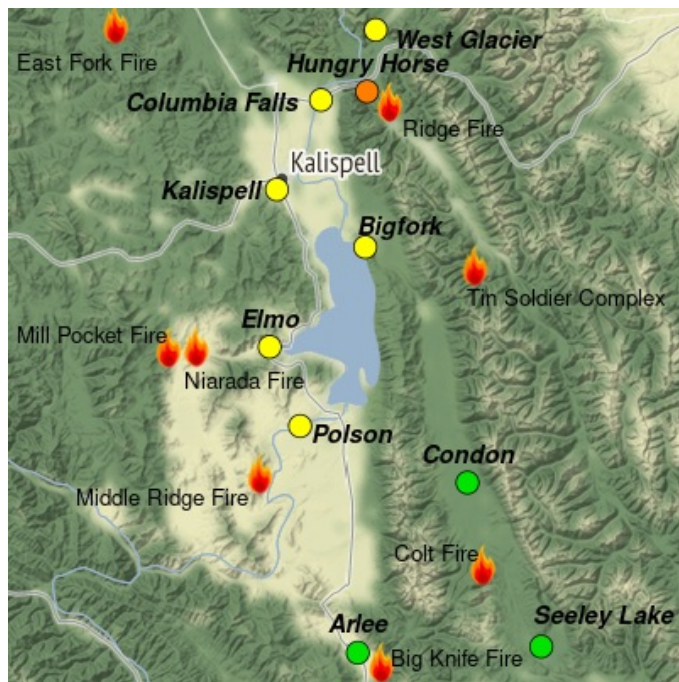
A strong high pressure system remains over the area today, bringing another day of high temperatures and lowering humidity. Ignition of unburnt trees within the perimeter of Niarada is likely to occur, as well as burning on the northwestern edge of Big Knife near Jocko Canyon. Expect fire activity to increase gradually today. Critical Fire weather is predicted for tomorrow and Thursday. Remain alert and stay safe!

Smoke

With an increase of fire activity, smoke levels are expected to increase slightly today, but most locations should still expect GOOD to MODERATE air quality for most of the day. Near the Ridge Fire, Hungry Horse has UNHEALTHY air quality this morning, and Columbia falls is expected to have USG before clearing around noon. Additional smoke from the west is expected to move into the forecast area, gradually deteriorating air quality. Expect overnight settling of smoke in low lying areas.

Additional Information

Critical fire weather is expected tomorrow and Thursday. Fire and smoke conditions can change quickly. Please check ["fire.airnow.gov"](https://fire.airnow.gov) for current conditions. Remember if you can see smoke or smell smoke you are in smoke. Follow "Actions to Protect Yourself" below.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Tuesday

Station	Yesterday			Mon 8/14	Comment for Today -- Tue, Aug 15	Forecast*	
	hourly					Tue 8/15	Wed 8/16
Arlee	6a	noon	6p	●	Expect GOOD to MODERATE air quality today and tonight.	●	●
Hungry Horse	No hourly data				UNHEALTHY air in the morning, clearing to MODERATE by late afternoon.	●	●
Kalispell	No hourly data				Mostly MODERATE today, with heaviest smoke from mid-morning to mid-afternoon.	●	●
Bigfork	No hourly data				Expect mostly MODERATE air quality today and tonight.	●	●
West Glacier	No hourly data				GOOD to MODERATE air quality is expected today and tonight.	●	●
Seeley Lake	No hourly data			●	Air quality is expected to be mostly GOOD today, with MODERATE this evening.	●	●
Condon	No hourly data				Expect GOOD to MODERATE air quality today with MODERATE possible overnight.	●	●
Elmo	No hourly data			●	MODERATE TO USG air quality is expected today, with MODERATE possible overnight.	●	●
Columbia Falls	No hourly data			●	Expect USG level smoke this morning, clearing this afternoon.	●	●
Polson /Pablo	No hourly data				Expect GOOD to MODERATE air quality throughout the day.	●	●

Issued Aug 15, 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