



Smoke Outlook

8/17 - 8/18

Flathead Valley Big Knife, Tin Soldier Complex, Ridge and Additional Fires

Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on August 17, 2023 at 08:16 AM MDT

Fire

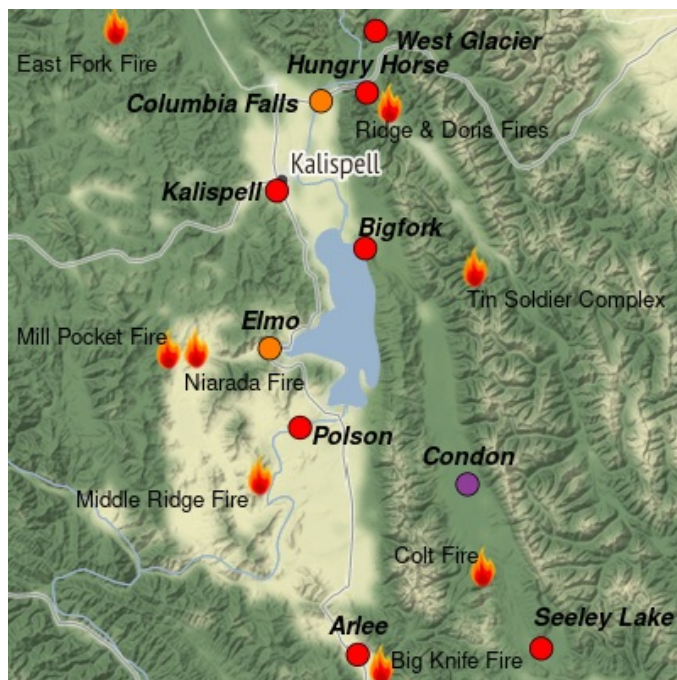
The high pressure system begins to break down today, as another day of high temperatures and low humidity remain but winds increase throughout the forecast area. Expect fire activity to increase and in some cases be extreme as fire weather will be critical for much of the Flathead Valley today and tomorrow. Remain alert and stay safe!

Smoke

USG to UNHEALTHY air quality is expected to persist throughout the forecast area much of the day and into tomorrow. Winds are expected to increase today and may bring afternoon clearing to some areas. However, the winds are also expected to increase fire activity so improvements in air quality will be limited. As winds continue to increase overnight and into tomorrow there may be continued clearing but again that is expected to be limited by increased fire activity.

Additional Information

Critical fire weather is expected today and tomorrow. Fire and smoke conditions can change quickly. Please check "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 Thursday

| Station | Yesterday | | | Wed 8/16 | Comment for Today -- Thu, Aug 17 | Forecast* | |
|----------------|----------------|------|----|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| | hourly | | | | | Thu 8/17 | Fri 8/18 |
| | 6a | noon | 6p | | | | |
| Kalispell | No hourly data | | | | UNHEALTHY most of the day. Clearing expected to begin this afternoon. | ● | ● |
| Bigfork | No hourly data | | | | Expect UNHEALTHY until late afternoon, USG evening and overnight. | ● | ● |
| West Glacier | No hourly data | | | | UNHEALTHY air quality is expected to linger throughout the day. | ● | ● |
| Seeley Lake | | | | ● | Expect USG to UNHEALTHY throughout the day. | ● | ● |
| Condon | No hourly data | | | | UNHEALTHY to VERY UNHEALTHY throughout the day and overnight. | ● | ● |
| Elmo | No hourly data | | | | UNHEALTHY this morning, USG expected this afternoon to overnight. | ● | ● |
| Columbia Falls | | | | ● | USG much of the day. Brief clearing possible around noon. | ● | ● |
| Polson /Pablo | No hourly data | | | | UNHEALTHY expected throughout the day and overnight. | ● | ● |
| Arlee | | | | ● | USG to UNHEALTHY expected throughout the day and overnight. | ● | ● |
| Hungry Horse | No hourly data | | | | UNHEALTHY to VERY UNHEALTHY | ● | ● |

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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 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