



# Smoke Outlook

8/21 - 8/22

Flathead Valley - Ridge, River Road East, Big Knife, and Additional Fires

Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on August 21, 2023 at 07:45 AM MDT

### Special Statement

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has issued an air quality alert:  
<https://deq.mt.gov/News/pressrelease-folder/news-article101>

### Fire

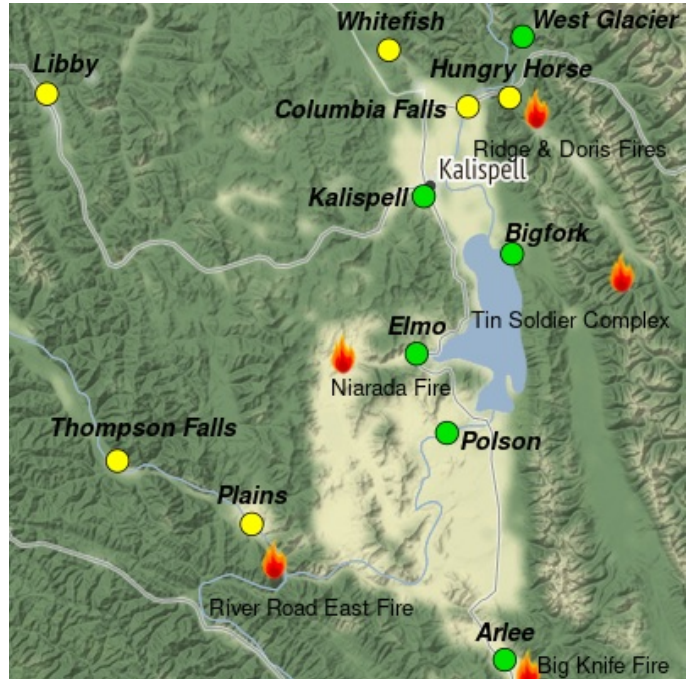
Rain today and tomorrow will slow fire activity. See [inciweb](#) ([inciweb.wildfire.gov](http://inciweb.wildfire.gov)) for updates on specific fires.

### Smoke

Monday will have improved air quality, starting from the south of the outlook area and moving north. Even the Clark Fork and Kootenai River corridors should clear out eventually. With diminished fire behavior due to moisture, most locations will have MODERATE or GOOD level smoke today and likely GOOD conditions by tonight or tomorrow. Locations close to the active fires in the area (Plains, Arlee) may return to MODERATE by midweek.

### Additional Information

Fire and smoke conditions can change quickly. Please check [fire.airnow.gov](http://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 Monday

Station	Yesterday hourly			Sun 8/20	Comment for Today -- Mon, Aug 21	Forecast*	
	6a	noon	6p			Mon 8/21	Tue 8/22
Kalispell	No hourly data				Expect GOOD air quality by this afternoon	Green	Green
Bigfork	No hourly data				Expect GOOD air quality today and tomorrow.	Green	Green
West Glacier	No hourly data				MODERATE becoming GOOD once rain arrives	Green	Green
Elmo	No hourly data				MODERATE becoming GOOD this afternoon.	Green	Green
Polson /Pablo	No hourly data				GOOD today and tomorrow.	Green	Green
Whitefish	No hourly data				MODERATE air quality becoming GOOD by afternoon.	Yellow	Green
Arlee				Orange	GOOD conditions today and Tuesday.	Green	Green
Thompson Falls				Red	Good chances for significant rain should bring clearer air by this evening.	Yellow	Green
Plains	No hourly data				Significant rain is forecast, and along with that, improved air quality.	Yellow	Green
Hungry Horse				Yellow	Smoke decreasing through the day	Yellow	Yellow
Columbia Falls				Yellow	MODERATE this morning. GOOD tonight.	Yellow	Green
Libby				Red	Rain is likely to bring improvement this evening to Libby.	Yellow	Yellow

Issued Aug 21, 2023 by Paul Corrigan [paul.corrigan@usda.gov](mailto:paul.corrigan@usda.gov) 801-440-1350

Air Quality Index (AQI)	Actions to Protect Yourself
Green Good	None
Yellow Moderate	Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion.
Orange USG	People within Sensitive Groups* should <b>reduce</b> prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.
Red Unhealthy	People within Sensitive Groups* should <b>avoid all</b> physical outdoor activity.
Purple Very Unhealthy	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
Dark Red 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](http://www.wildlandfiresmoke.net)  
 Flathead Valley Updates -- <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/78e08155>  
 \*Smoke and Health Info -- [www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health](http://www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health)