



# Smoke Outlook

8/18 - 8/19

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

Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on August 18, 2023 at 08:03 AM MDT

### Special Statement

A Red Flag Warning has been issued for much of the forecast area; "<https://goo.gl/maps/BLajK38bjPVAEjM388>"

### Fire

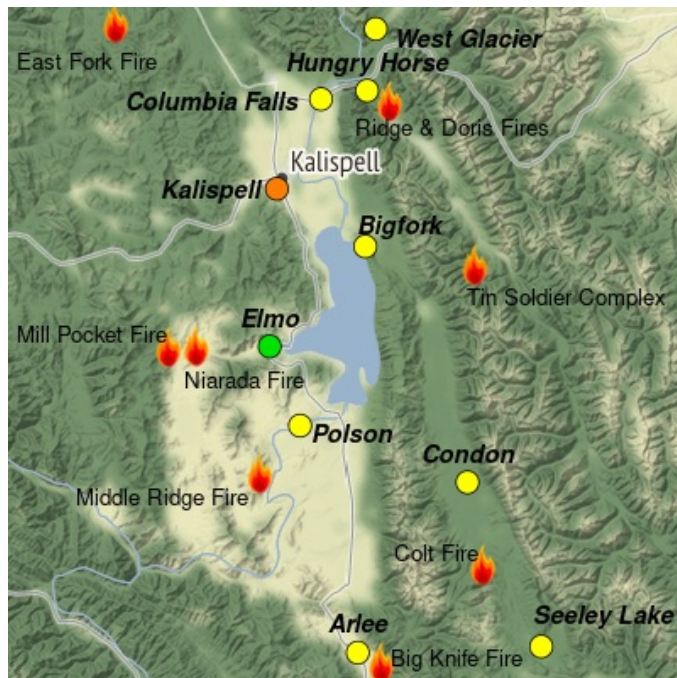
Continued hot, dry, windy weather will persist today. Fires are expected to be very active and spread could be rapid. Remain alert and stay safe!

### Smoke

There is improved air quality throughout the Flathead Valley this morning as winds have cleared recent smoke. All locations are expected to have GOOD to MODERATE air quality through this afternoon. As wind shifts tonight, a cooler more humid air mass arrives from Canada, bringing heavy smoke which is expected to blanket the Valley and linger throughout tomorrow.

### Additional Information

Critical fire weather is expected today. Fire and smoke conditions can change quickly. Please check "[fire.airnow.gov](https://www.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 Friday

Station	Yesterday hourly			Thu 8/17	Comment for Today -- Fri, Aug 18	Forecast*	
	6a	noon	6p			Fri 8/18	Sat 8/19
Kalispell	No hourly data				MODERATE through afternoon, then USG to UNHEALTHY evening smoke.	●	●
Bigfork	No hourly data				Expect GOOD to MODERATE air quality today, with UNHEALTHY returning overnight.	●	●
Seeley Lake				●	GOOD to MODERATE through this evening with UNHEALTHY overnight.	●	●
Condon	No hourly data				GOOD to MODERATE through this evening, UNHEALTHY level smoke returning overnight	●	●
Elmo	No hourly data				GOOD air quality through this evening, with UNHEALTHY returning overnight.	●	●
Columbia Falls				●	GOOD to MODERATE until this evening, then UNHEALTHY overnight.	●	●
Polson /Pablo	No hourly data				MODERATE through this evening with UNHEALTHY overnight.	●	●
Arlee				●	GOOD to MODERATE until this evening, UNHEALTHY overnight.	●	●
Hungry Horse	No hourly data				GOOD to MODERATE through this evening, UNHEALTHY overnight.	●	●
West Glacier	No hourly data				MODERATE is expected through this evening with UNHEALTHY overnight.	●	●

Issued Aug 18, 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 <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.



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)