



Smoke Outlook

West Central VA Matt's Creek Fire

11/19 - 11/20

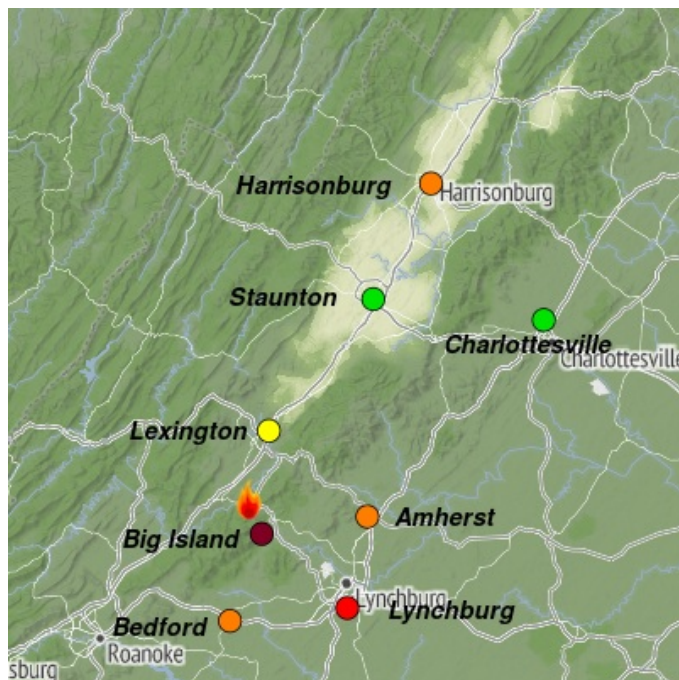
Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on November 19, 2023 at 08:01 AM EST

Fire

Matt's Creek fire continues to move around in the heavy leaf litter and shrubs within the Thunder Ridge NF Wilderness Area southeast of the Natural Bridge. Yesterday's winds pushed active fire edges on the west flank of the fire, resulting in additional fire spread between Belfast and Big Hellgate Creek towards the James River. Light west winds today will slow fire activity and reduce smoke production into the evening. Warm and dry conditions will continue to support fast fire growth in the continuous leaf litter. Visit [Inciweb](#) for closures, contacts, and more information

Smoke

Today-expect USG-VERY UNHEALTHY conditions between Bedford and Lexington. Light west winds will disperse smoke along I-81 and the Blue Ridge Parkways. Today's clear skies, light winds, and warmer temps will produce short periods of reduced roadway visibility and pockets of heavier smoke concentrations along drainage and valley bottoms. This evening, smoke will continue to settle in communities between the Natural Bridge, Buena Vista, Amherst, and Lynchburg. A cooler, moist air mass is moving into the area Monday night bringing improved air quality.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Sunday

Station	Yesterday hourly		Sat 11/18	Comment for Today -- Sun, Nov 19	Forecast*	
	6a	noon			Sun 11/19	Mon 11/20
Big Island	No hourly data			UNHEALTHY to HAZARDOUS expected today and tomorrow.		
Amherst	No hourly data			GOOD today through tomorrow morning, UNHEALTHY tomorrow afternoon and evening.		
Lynchburg	No hourly data			GOOD to MODERATE during the day. Tonight, expect VERY UNHEALTHY again.		
Lexington	No hourly data			GOOD air quality most of the day with USG smoke pooling again tonight.		
Harrisonburg	No hourly data			Continued clearing skies as west winds push smoke into the Blue Ridge Parkway		
Bedford	No hourly data			MODERATE this morning followed by periods of USG to VERY UNHEALTHY this evening.		
Staunton	No hourly data			GOOD air quality expected all day.		
Charlottesville				GOOD air quality all day.		
Richmond				NA		
Washington				NA		
Danville	No hourly data			NA		
Winchester				NA		

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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.

Additional Links

[Fire and Smoke Map](#) -- <https://fire.airnow.gov/>

[Virginia DEQ Air Quality](#) -- <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/air/monitoring-assessments/air-quality-forecast>



Issued by Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program -- www.wildlandfiresmoke.net

West Central VA Updates -- <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/60691e1f>

*Smoke and Health Info -- www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health