



Smoke Outlook

Black Bear Fire, Great Smoky Mts.

11/19 - 11/20

Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on November 19, 2023 at 06:38 AM EST

Special Statement

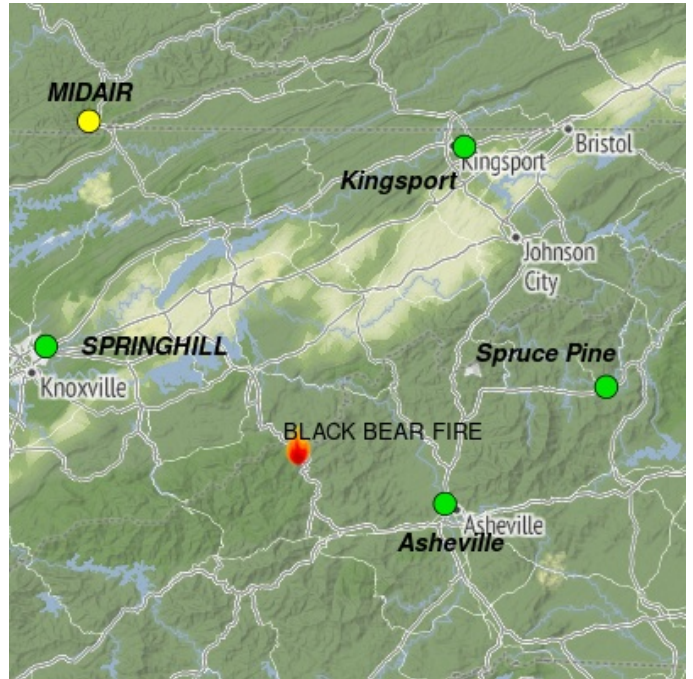
The Black Bear Fire was started by a vehicle accident on Hwy. 40 on November 16, 2023 and quickly outpaced initial attack forces. Dry fuels, high winds, and steep terrain spurred the fire up the mountain, making containment difficult. Fire is currently at 1,720 acres with 0% containment.

Fire

Recent rain significantly decreased fire behavior in the leaf litter and fine fuels. Larger fuels are continuing to consume and have another days worth of burning before the next potential shot of rain comes. Winds could dry out leaf litter in the next 24-48 hours if rain showers do not materialize.

Smoke

Fog can create low visibility. This morning, tonight, and tomorrow morning have several parameters forecasted to create dense fog. Smoke may cause some visibility issues along Hwy. 40 where canyons become narrow allowing smoke to pool into drainages coupled with river bottoms. Drivers should check with local authorities on road conditions or consider avoiding the areas from Buzzard Rock overlook to north of Wilton Springs and south to Pigeon River Crossing. Smoldering also continues near Andrews causing moderate air conditions in mornings.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Sunday

Station	Yesterday			Sat 11/18	Comment for Today -- Sun, Nov 19	Forecast*	
	hourly					Sun 11/19	Mon 11/20
MIDAIR	6a	noon	6p		Drying may allow increase in smoke production, light winds may allow pooling		
SPRINGHILL					Light winds may allow smoke to pool into drainages		
SPRUCE PINE					Overall GOOD air today, some smoke may be noticed as west winds prevail today		
Asheville					Overall GOOD air today, some smoke may be noticed with the west winds today		
KINGSPORT					GOOD air expected today		

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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

[Collett Fire](https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD1150420) -- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD1150420>

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



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

Black Bear Updates -- <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/8a90385a>

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