



Smoke Outlook

West Central VA Matt's Creek Fire

11/18 - 11/19

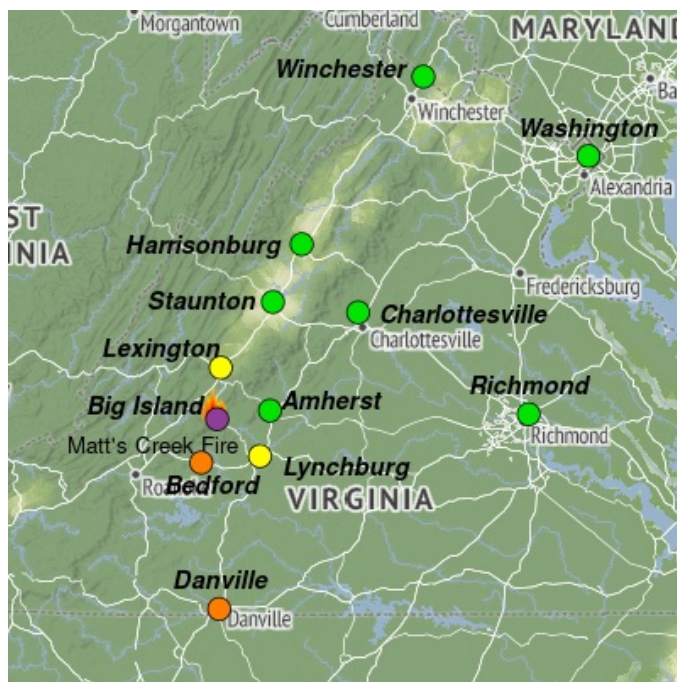
Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on November 18, 2023 at 08:20 AM EST

Fire

The Matt's Creek Fire is burning near Big Island, Virginia. Updates on fire growth as well as road and trail closures can be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/vavaf-matts-creek-fire>.

Smoke

Communities to the north of the fire can expect clearing this morning with mostly GOOD air quality today and tomorrow. **In Big Island VERY UNHEALTHY to HAZARDOUS air quality is expected this afternoon and evening.** Winds will bring smoke south of the fire today. Smoke models show the heaviest smoke staying east of Bedford, affecting Forest and Altavista until tonight, but a slight shift could bring dense smoke to either Bedford or Lynchburg so be prepared for periods of UNHEALTHY to VERY UNHEALTHY from Bedford to Lynchburg. If you see or smell smoke you are in smoke. Follow Actions to Protect Yourself, below.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Saturday

Station	Yesterday hourly	Fri 11/17	Forecast*	Sat 11/18	Sun 11/19
	6a noon 6p		Comment for Today -- Sat, Nov 18		
Harrisonburg	No hourly data		MODERATE this morning, clearing to GOOD today and tomorrow.		
Lexington	No hourly data		Expect GOOD to MODERATE today and tomorrow.		
Staunton	No hourly data		MODERATE this morning, clearing to GOOD today and tomorrow.		
Bedford	No hourly data		GOOD to MODERATE morning and afternoon, UNHEALTHY evening.		
Big Island	No hourly data		UNHEALTHY to VERY UNHEALTHY 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 expected but periods of heavy smoke are possible.		
Richmond			GOOD expected, see also the DEQ air quality forecast at link below.		
Winchester			GOOD expected today and tomorrow. See the DEQ forecast link below.		
Washington			GOOD air quality is expected today and tomorrow.		
Charlottesville			GOOD today, GOOD to MODERATE tomorrow.		
Danville	No hourly data		GOOD this morning, MODERATE afternoon, UNHEALTHY likely tonight.		

Issued Nov 18, 2023 by Margaret Key, Air Resource Advisor (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 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