



Smoke Outlook

VA/MD North Zone and Shenandoah Fires

3/24 - 3/25

Issued by Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program on March 24, 2024 at 07:14 AM EDT

Fire

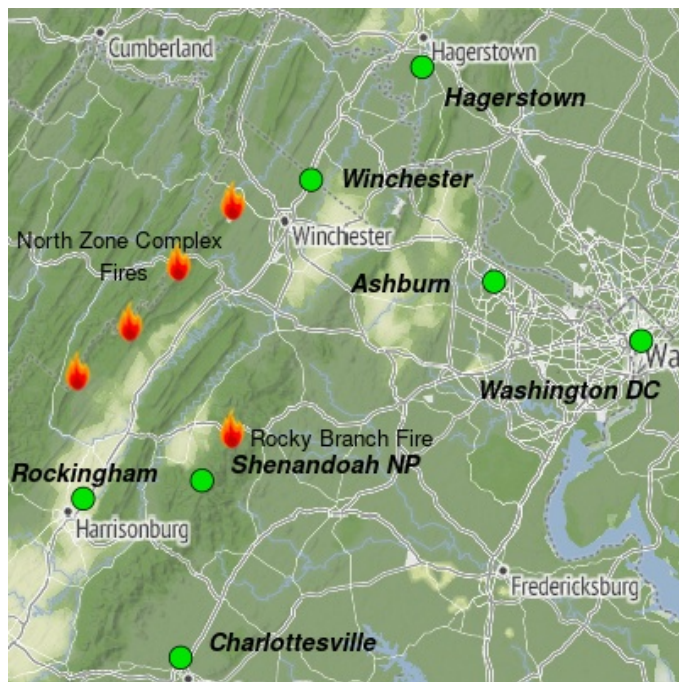
The Rocky Branch Fire in Shenandoah was just under 1000 acres with 10 percent containment late Saturday. The North Zone Complex comprises 4 main fires near and within the GW and Jefferson NF, and totaled 12,915 acres late Saturday. Ongoing control efforts will focus on values at risk during a more favorable weather window, along with the arrival of additional resources and crews to the fires.

Smoke

Fire activity was suppressed from Saturday due to rains of around a half to 3/4 of an inch. Forecast winds out of the northeast along with the beginning of a dry period will increase potential for localized smoke to push south and west along the Shenandoah Valley between Harrisonburg and the Shenandoah Park. However the big picture AQ will remain GOOD into tonight.

Roadway Visibility

Some smoke mainly in the immediate vicinity of fires will bring reduced visibility after nightfall. Motorists may encounter reduced visibility in drainages and valleys as smoke settles in lighter winds near Luray, and roadways near active smoldering in and near the GW Jefferson NF and Shenandoah NP.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Sunday

Station	Yesterday			Sat 3/23	Comment for Today -- Sun, Mar 24	Forecast*	
	hourly					Sun 3/24	Mon 3/25
	6a	noon	6p				
Hagerstown					GOOD AQ Sunday into Monday with a drying period ahead		
Washington DC					GOOD AQ expected well into upcoming week		
Winchester					GOOD AQ through Monday due to reduced fire activity and favorable winds		
Ashburn					GOOD AQ into early week with favorable winds		
Charlottesville					Reduced fire activity should allow for GOOD AQ through Monday		
Central Shenandoah NP					Mostly GOOD AQ with some lower elevation smoke near fires late		
Rockingham					GOOD AQ today with some light smoke possible early week		

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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

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality -- <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/air/monitoring-assessments> - Virginia Roadway Information -- <https://www.511virginia.org/>



Issued by Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program -- www.wildlandfiresmoke.net
VA/MD Updates -- <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/5001855d>
*Smoke and Health Info -- www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health