



Smoke Outlook

VA/MD North Zone and Shenandoah Fires

3/26 - 3/27

Issued by Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program on March 26, 2024 at 06:36 AM EDT

Fire

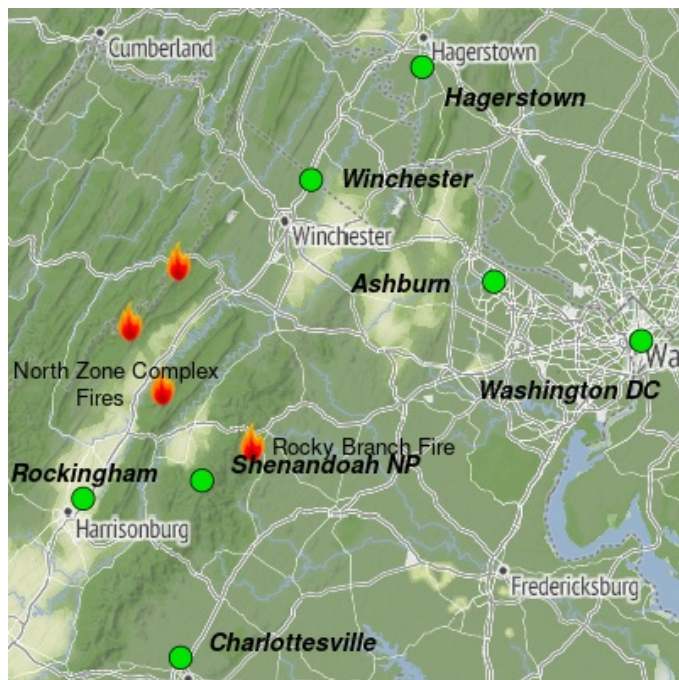
The Rocky Branch Fire in Shenandoah remained just under 1000 acres with 25 percent containment Monday. The North Zone Complex comprises 4 main fires near and within the GW and Jefferson NF and Shenandoah NP, and totaled near 14,500 acres late Monday. Ongoing control efforts are focusing on values at risk during this favorable weather window. Good progress is reported on daily containment efforts.

Smoke

Limited natural smoke production from interior pockets as well as uncontrolled line will add some light smoke, mainly in proximity to northern Shenandoah Valley. Selected tactical burning may occur over the next 24 hours in order to establish solid lines of control. Localized smoke will drift north to northwest. However the big regional AQ will remain GOOD into midweek.

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 light to calm winds near Luray, Highways 340/211, and roadways near active smoldering in and near the GW Jefferson NF and Shenandoah NP.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Tuesday

Station	Yesterday			Mon 3/25	Comment for Today -- Tue, Mar 26	Forecast*	
	hourly					Tue 3/26	Wed 3/27
	6a	noon	6p				
Hagerstown					GOOD AQ to continue through midweek		
Washington DC					GOOD air quality will continue		
Winchester					Mostly GOOD AQ with periods MODERATE AQ possible this afternoon		
Ashburn					GOOD AQ continuing today		
Charlottesville					Reduced fire activity should continue GOOD AQ for area		
Central Shenandoah NP					Mostly GOOD AQ with local morning haze and smoke in lower elevations		
Rockingham					GOOD AQ to continue through midweek		

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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