



Environment Department

SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR

Ryan Flynn, Cabinet Secretary
Butch Tongate, Deputy Secretary

NEWS RELEASE

January 22, 2016

NMED's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

Contact: Allison Scott Majure, Communications Director
New Mexico Environment Department
505.231.8800 | Allison.majure@state.nm.us

Environment & Health Departments Issue Smoke Advisory for Potential Impacts to Santa Fe

Santa Fe – The New Mexico Environment Department and New Mexico Department of Health today issued a smoke advisory for areas of Santa Fe that may be affected by smoke from the prescribed burn that is planned in the Santa Fe watershed early next week. Smoke would, most likely, be evident in the evenings and early morning hours following burning, and could linger in affected areas until inversions lift, typically by mid- to late-morning hours. Areas most likely to be affected by smoke include nearby communities along Hyde Park Road and neighborhoods along the Santa Fe River near Canyon Road, Cerro Gordo Road, and Alameda Street.

“Smoke can hurt your eyes, irritate your respiratory system, and intensify chronic heart and lung problems,” said Department of Health Cabinet Secretary, Retta Ward, MPH. “People with heart and/or lung disease, adults over age 65, young children, and pregnant women should minimize outdoor activities during times when the visibility is about 5 miles or less. Be sure you have the medicines needed for chronic heart or lung disease. When the visibility starts to go below 3 miles, sensitive groups should avoid outdoor activities until air quality improves.”

The New Mexico Environment Department operates air quality monitors at multiple locations around the state. The monitors gather information about air quality conditions and help to keep the public informed. Data from the Environment Department air monitors can be found at <http://drdasnm1.alink.com/>.

Because air quality monitors are not everywhere, the eyes are the best tools to determine if it is safe to be outside. Even if the smell of smoke is apparent, the air quality may still be good. As a rule of thumb, if visibility is over five miles, the air quality is generally good. However, no matter how far one can see, if individuals are having health effects from smoke exposure, they are advised to take extra care to stay inside or get to an area with better air quality and to also see a doctor or healthcare professional as needed.

For guidance on distances and visibility, please visit www.nmtracking.org/fire, which includes three maps with examples.

###