



Maui Wildfires Air Quality Guide for Particle Pollution

Air monitoring of particle pollution is an effective way to assess general air quality. This is because potential contaminants of concern stick to pieces of ash and dust. Ash may include heavy metals, chemicals, dust, dirt, and soot. Breathing in these chemicals can be hazardous to your health. Breathing in dust or ash may cause irritation to your eyes, nose, and throat. The Hawai'i Department of Health, in conjunction with the County of Maui and other state, local, and federal partners, continues to work to minimize the risk of exposure to the ash.

The impact area has been treated with SoilTac®, an ecologically and environmentally safe dust and erosion control measure. Debris removal operations employ a variety of dust control measures. Still, strong winds or disturbance of the material may cause highly localized areas to have airborne dust or ash.

To date, the Hawai'i Department of Health and other agencies' air monitoring data consistently demonstrate no significant air quality impacts throughout the Lāhainā area.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) on the following page provides categories and colors, corresponding index values, and cautionary statements for different levels of health concern. If the real-time air monitoring data reports yellow

or higher levels (meaning lower air quality) or if you are around ash that could be stirred up by wind or human disturbance, use personal protective equipment (PPE).

PROTECT YOURSELF. If you need to visit areas with ash, take safety measures by always wearing PPE including face masks when there is visible dust, yellow AQI level or higher (lower air quality), or if the ash will be disturbed. Using PPE will help protect you from exposures to airborne particles and to the harmful substances found within them. In addition, wear gloves, long sleeve shirts, pants, socks, and shoes to avoid skin contact with ash. Limit the amount of time you spend at the site. Avoid breathing in ash by wearing a tight-fitting N95 - look for the words "NIOSH Approved" printed on the mask. Be aware of heat illness symptoms and understand that PPE can increase the burden of heat load on the body by trapping the heat and not allowing the body to cool. Leave the area and remove PPE if experiencing heat illness symptoms.

You may monitor real-time air quality at www.fire.airnow.gov or by downloading the [AirNow mobile app](#). Additional apps such as [Local Haze](#), [IQAir](#), and [Paku](#) use the same data sources and allow for real-time alerts.

MAUI WILDFIRES AIR QUALITY GUIDE FOR PARTICLE POLLUTION

Harmful particle pollution is one of our nation’s most common air quality problems. Use the chart below to help reduce your exposure to particles and harmful substances within them. This will help protect your health. The Air Quality Index (AQI) includes AQI categories and colors, corresponding index values and cautionary statements for different levels of health concern. The AQI shows the air quality for a specific area. If you are around ash that could be stirred up by wind or human disturbance, your immediate air quality could be worse, so always use personal protective equipment (PPE). Visit [AirNow.gov](https://www.airnow.gov) for your local air quality and [CDC's Particle Pollution webpage](https://www.cdc.gov/air/quality/index/) to learn more about how to protect yourself.

* Note: If you don't have an air conditioner, staying inside with the windows closed may be dangerous in extremely hot weather. If you are hot, go someplace with air conditioning or check with your local government to find out if cooling centers are available in your community.

Air Quality Index		
AQI Category and Color	Index Value	Description and Air Quality
Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk
Green		
Moderate	51-100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those that are unusually sensitive to air pollution
Yellow		
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected
Orange		
Unhealthy	151-200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Red		
Very Unhealthy	201-300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Purple		
Hazardous	301 to 500	Health warning of emergency conditions; everyone is more likely to be affected.
Maroon		