



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

ELIZABETH A. CHAR, MD
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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Mauna Loa eruption raises potential for air quality hazards

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) advises the public to be prepared for air quality impacts due to the Mauna Loa eruption. As of November 28 at 2:00 PM HST, permanent [air quality monitoring stations across the state](#) report that air quality remains normal. However, the eruption could cause vog conditions, ash in the air, and levels of sulfur dioxide to increase and fluctuate in various areas of the state. Conditions are changing rapidly, and poor air quality may be very localized.

Hawai'i residents and visitors are advised to be prepared for and aware of the surrounding conditions, and how they may react to poor air quality or vog. In the event of vogy conditions, the following precautionary measures are advised:

- Reduce outdoor activities that cause heavy breathing. Avoiding outdoor activity and exercise during vog conditions can reduce exposure and minimize health risks. This is especially important for sensitive groups such as children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions including asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, and chronic lung and heart disease.
- People with asthma or a chronic respiratory disease should always have medications available. Daily prescribed medications should be taken on schedule.
- People experiencing health effects should contact their medical provider as soon as possible if any symptoms develop, as respiratory conditions might worsen rapidly in heavy sulfur dioxide or vog conditions.
- Stay indoors and close windows and doors. If an air conditioner is used, set it to recirculate. If you need to move out of an impacted area, turn on the car's air conditioner and set it to recirculate.

- Face masks (surgical, cloth, KF94, KN95, N95) do not provide protection from sulfur dioxide or vog. However, they can be effective in outdoor environments in reducing inhaled hazardous particulates associated with falling ash and Pele's hair.
- Do not smoke and avoid second-hand smoke.
- Drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration.

Vog and air quality updates are available through the:

- [Hawai'i Interagency Vog Information Dashboard](#)
- [DOH Clean Air Branch](#)
- [U.S. Geological Survey Mauna Loa Volcano Updates](#)

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