

# Preparing for Wildfire Season

Using air quality data to protect your health

July 30, 2025

# What is smoke?

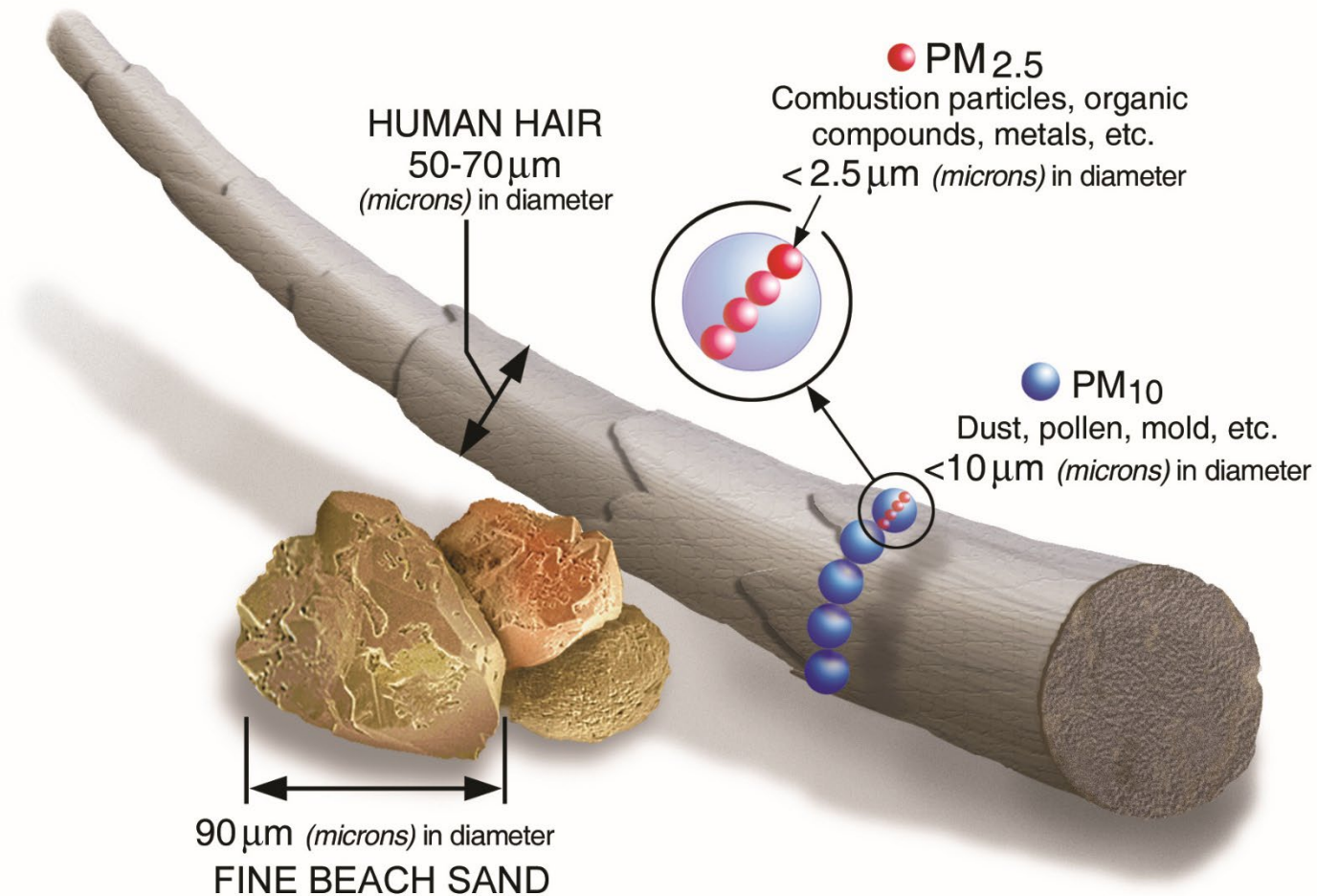
A mixture of gases and fine particulates produced when materials are burned

Fine particulate matter ( $PM_{2.5}$ ) poses the greatest health risk

Can cause shortness of breath, inflammation, irritation and worsen heart and lung diseases



# PM<sub>2.5</sub> – the primary concern



# Smoke vulnerable population



- People with pre-existing heart and respiratory conditions
- Older adults (65+)
- Infants and children under 15
- Pregnant women
- Low income and unhoused people
- Outdoor workers, especially migrant and seasonal farm workers

# Pop quiz!

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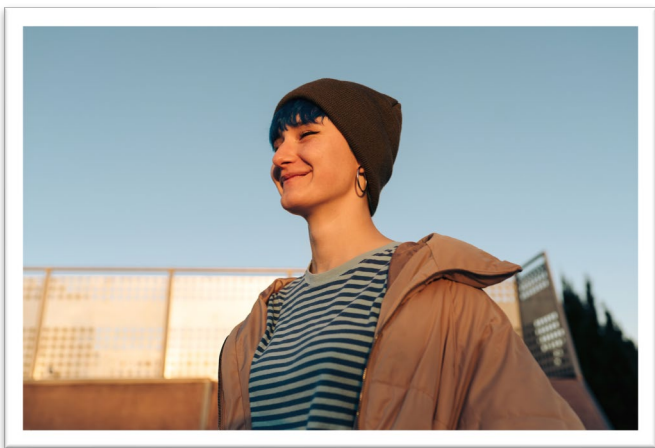
If you breathe wildfire smoke, PM<sub>2.5</sub> can:

- a) get deep into your lungs
- b) worsen asthma symptoms
- c) enter your bloodstream
- d) create lung development issues in children
- e) all the above



# Air Quality Index

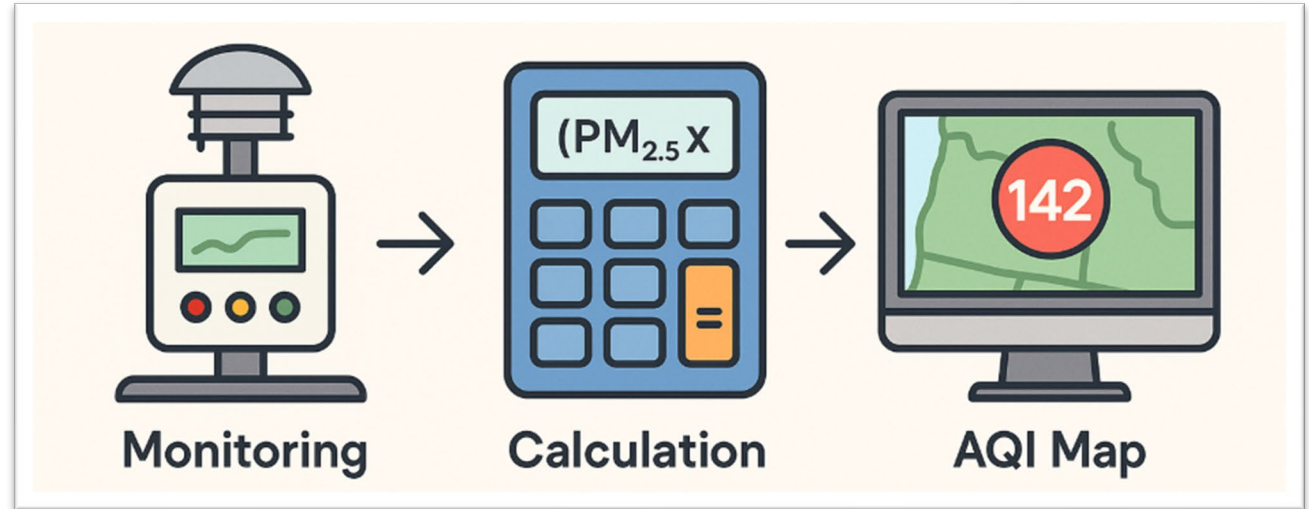
What is the AQI where you live today?



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

# What is the AQI?

**Air Quality Index:** a tool used to measure and communicate the level of air pollution in a given area



0-50	51-100	101-150	151-200	201-300	301-500
Good	Moderate	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Unhealthy	Very Unhealthy	Hazardous

# How to read and use the AQI

Good	0 – 50	Air is clean and healthy
Moderate	51-100	Okay for most people
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	Sensitive groups should take it easy
Unhealthy	151-200	Everyone may feel effects
Very Unhealthy	201-300	Health alert
Hazardous	301-500	Emergency conditions

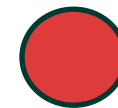
## What to do with the info:



Green or Yellow: Go outside! Enjoy the day!



Orange: Sensitive groups should take it easy.



Red or higher: Stay indoors if possible and use clean air strategies.



# How do I check the AQI?

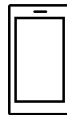
EPA Fire and Smoke Map

PurpleAir Map

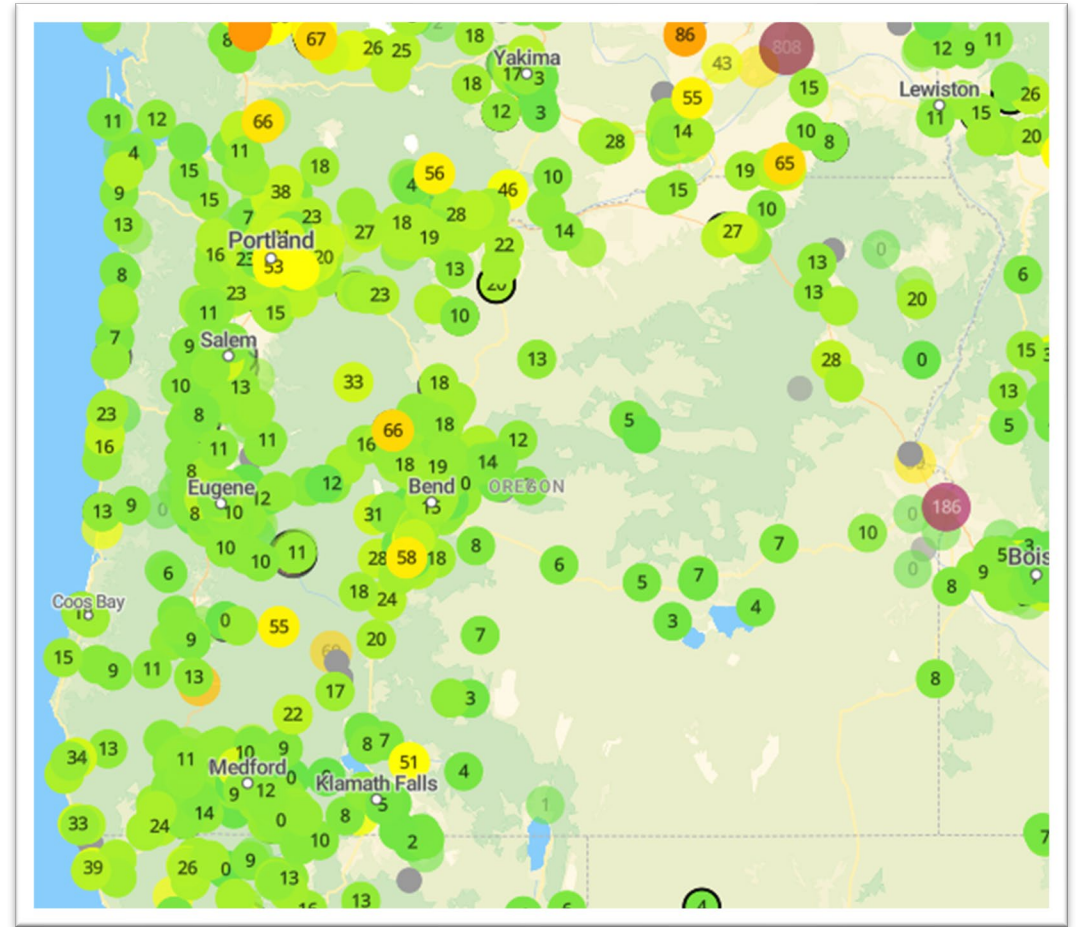
OregonAir App



Apple Store



Google Play



# Pop quiz!

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**If the AQI is 145, what does that mean?**

- a) The air is clean and healthy.
- b) The air is ok for most people.
- c) It's unhealthy for sensitive groups.
- d) It's a health emergency.

# How to check the AQI?

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- [Fire and Smoke Map](#)
  - Best for viewing current AQI data
  - Map settings are already applied for most accurate readings
  - Preferred resource
- [PurpleAir Map](#)
  - Best for viewing and exporting raw data
  - User can modify map settings

# Reliable wildfire and air quality resources

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- [After the 2020 Oregon Wildfires](#)
- [Oregon Wildfire Response & Recovery](#)
- [Preparing for Wildfires](#)
- [OHA – Wildfire Smoke and Public Health](#)
- [EPA AirNow](#)
- [Oregon Smoke Information](#)

**Thank you!**

**.....Questions?**

# Title VI and alternative formats

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