



Oregon

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PROVIDER ALERT

TO: Nursing Facility Providers
Ref: 18-24-NF

Date: July 24, 2018
From: Nursing Facility Licensing, Safety, Oversight and Quality
Subject: Poor Air Quality Advisory Around the State

Nursing Facility Provider Alert

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has expanded an Air Pollution Advisory for Douglas, Josephine and Jackson counties to include Klamath Basin, eastern Curry County and surrounding areas due to extreme heat and multiple wildfires burning around the state.

Residents in your care may be extremely vulnerable to poor air quality conditions. During times of poor air quality, exposure to outdoor air should be limited. Residents choosing to go outdoors will need to be closely monitored for any negative effects related to poor air quality. Consider keeping windows and doors closed during these advisory periods.

Precautions should be taken to prevent exposure to stale, non-circulating indoor air. Air filtration systems may need to have more frequent filter maintenance during periods of poor air quality. Facilities may need to utilize fans and air filtration systems to circulate the indoor air.

Carefully monitor residents for breathing problems. Those with existing breathing challenges may experience exacerbated symptoms during poor air quality advisories. Residents without pre-existing breathing problems may also exhibit breathing difficulties during periods of poor air quality.

If breathing problems are suspected, please exercise caution, and contact the resident's healthcare provider.

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"

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For more information related to current air and wildfire conditions see:
https://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=topics.smoke_wildfires

For general information contact the DHS Safety, Oversight, and Quality or visit the DHS Web site at www.oregon.gov/DHS

To contact Nursing Facility Licensing Unit directly please email us at: **NF.Licensing@state.or.us**.