

Be Ozone Aware

Wildfires

Because of the dry climate, wildfires can be a big problem for Colorado residents. According to the [National Interagency Fire Center](#), there were 967 wildfires in 2017, that burned a total of 111,667 acres. Wildfire smoke contains small particles that can irritate your eyes, throat, and lungs. These particles may be especially harmful to those with heart disease, respiratory illnesses, the very young, and the elderly, who may want to remain indoors and limit outdoor activity when moderate to heavy smoke is present. [Sign up](#) to receive updates from us when air quality is expected to become unhealthy. You can also visit our [website](#) for updates. Here at the Air Pollution Control Division, we work hard to improve air quality across the state and keep you informed about conditions in your area.

What can YOU do?

- Check your [local air quality](#)
- Keep windows and doors closed
- Avoid lighting candles, using the fireplace, or smoking indoors
- Learn more through the [CDC](#) or the [National Fire Protection Association](#)

Learn more:

- [Fire bans](#)
- [Health effects of smoke](#)
- [Health recommendations](#)
- [Smoke health concerns](#)
- [EPA AirNow](#)

How does wildfire smoke influence ozone?

Smoke from wildfires can carry oxides of nitrogen for very long distances. This aged NO_x can have a big influence on ozone concentrations, especially in cities and towns where there are sources of volatile organic compounds.



COLORADO
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