



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INFORMATION RELEASE

Aug 13, 2018 2:00 pm

Smoky Skies Expected to Continue in the RDOS

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Emergency Operations Centre (RDOS EOC) is monitoring the Snowy Mountain wildfire. The EOC is reminding residents that smoke from this, and other wildfires in the province is expected to affect air quality over the next few days. According to BC Wildfire, “forest fire smoke is a complex and dynamic mixture of gases and very small particles that can irritate the respiratory system and cause systemic inflammation.”

Interior Health says smoke can affect each person differently, based on health, age and exposure. For more information about air quality and living with smoky skies, please click on the links below:

Interior Health

Your Health and Living With Smoky Skies

https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/Emergency/Wildfires/Documents/HP-AQ-9001_Smoky%20Skies.pdf

Reminder: Take Precautions When Skies are Smoky

https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/MediaCentre/NewsReleases/Documents/IH%20Wide%20Smoky%20Skies%20PSA%20-%20Final_Aug%208%202018.pdf

Wildfire Events - Audio Clips

People at Higher Risks, How Smoke Affects You, Tips to Reduce Risk & Air Quality Resources

<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/Emergency/MajorEvents/Pages/default.aspx>

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Recent air quality in the Okanagan has been poor due to forest fire smoke. Of particular concern to respiratory health are small particles less than 2.5 microns in size.

Environment and Climate Change Canada have published new 48h hourly ground level maps of wildfire contribution to surface PM2.5 air quality:

https://weather.gc.ca/firework/firework_anim_e.html?type=em&utc=12

For more information visit the RDOS website www.rdos.bc.ca

Issued by Director of RDOS Emergency Operations Centre

RDOS EOC 250-490-4225



Serving the citizens of the Okanagan-Similkameen since 1966.

www.rdos.bc.ca

Why are PM2.5 of concern:

“Since they are so small and light, fine particles tend to stay longer in the air than heavier particles. This increases the chances of humans and animals inhaling them into the bodies. Owing to their minute size, particles smaller than 2.5 micrometers are able to bypass the nose and throat and penetrate deep into the lungs and some may even enter the circulatory system. Fine particles are known to trigger or worsen chronic disease such as asthma, heart attack, bronchitis and other respiratory problems.”

(Source: <https://blissair.com/what-is-pm-2-5.htm>).