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## **SWCAA issues air quality advisory for Cowlitz County and Clark County due to industrial fire in Longview**

Vancouver, WA —The Southwest Clean Air Agency issued an air quality advisory for the Southwest Washington area due to smoke from an industrial fire in Longview, Wash.

SWCAA expects the air quality advisory to last into tomorrow and potentially longer, until the fire stops smoldering.

SWCAA's air monitor in Vancouver showed unhealthy air quality for sensitive groups (orange) on Monday morning.

Smoke can irritate people's eyes and lungs and worsen some medical conditions. Small children, adults over 65, pregnant women, and people with heart disease, asthma or other respiratory conditions are particularly vulnerable.

People can take the following precautions to protect their health during periods of severe smoke:

- Stay inside if possible and avoid strenuous outdoor activity.
- Be aware of smoke in your area and avoid places with highest concentrations.
- If you have a respiratory illness, asthma or heart or lung disease, follow your healthcare provider's advice.
- Use certified HEPA filters in indoor heating, ventilation, cooling and air purification systems. HEPA stands for high efficiency particulate air filters.
- Be a good neighbour – limit or refrain from outdoor burning and wood stove use while communities respond to COVID-19. [Read the request from SWCAA to voluntarily refrain from outdoor burning here.](<http://www.swcleanair.org/althome.asp>)

SWCAA's color-coded Air Quality Index provides current air quality conditions and ranks air quality as follows: Green is good. Yellow is moderate. Orange is unhealthy for sensitive groups such as children, the elderly, pregnant women and those with respiratory conditions. Red is unhealthy for everyone. Purple is very unhealthy for all groups. Maroon is hazardous.

Smoke levels can change rapidly depending on weather. Check current conditions and advisories on [SWCAA's Air Quality Index](<http://www.swcleanair.org/burning/airquality.asp>).

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