

3:00PM 9/9/2020

SECTION 8 PARTICIPANTS

AIR QUALITY AND WILDFIRE UPDATE



Homes for Good Updates

We wanted to take a moment to let you know that we are monitoring the rapidly changing situation with nearby wildfires and impacts on local air quality and we are working to ensure that our residents and staff are safe and have the critical information they need. We are including some helpful links below to stay updated on the progress of this fire, as well as resources that may be available to you. As always, don't hesitate to reach out if there is something that we can assist you with during these difficult times. Our main office line is (541) 682-3755 or you can contact your Housing Specialist.

If your house falls within one of the County designated evacuation zones, your Housing Specialist will be calling within the next couple business days to understand what your immediate needs are.

Lane County Updates

Stay up to date on this quickly moving situation by signing up for emergency alerts and checking for updates on the Lane County page (includes an evacuation map):

<https://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/>

https://lanecounty.org/news/mc_kenzie_fire

Air Quality Tips/Resources

- Air quality is currently considered hazardous in Eugene/Springfield and residents are encouraged to stay inside as much as possible. These conditions are expected to continue through Thursday evening. You can check Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) website for information and maps on local air quality: <https://www.lrapa.org/>
- Keep your windows closed and if you have an air conditioner, use it in re-circulation mode or close the fresh air intake to keep smoky air out of your home. Avoid turning anything on that draws air from the outside such as a bathroom fan or kitchen vent.
- If you have a Ductless Heat Pump (DHP), it may be worth giving it an extra clean to help it work its best. <https://www.homesforgood.org/services-for-residents/resident-toolkit/resident-tips-and-videos#>
- If you don't have a DHP, you can also make a filter fan to help clean your indoor air. All you need is a box fan, furnace filter (MERV-13 or better found at most hardware stores), and a bungee cord or tape. See instructions here: <https://vimeo.com/286049507>

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PUBLIC HOUSING AND MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING AIR QUALITY AND WILDFIRE UPDATE



Air Quality Tips/Resources (Continued)

- Masks with the label N95 or N100 are the most effective type of mask for protection against air pollution, but due to the ongoing COVID-19 response we need to reserve those for health care and other frontline workers for now. While cloth face coverings are recommended to reduce the spread of COVID-19, they offer limited protection from air pollution and wildfire smoke and must be properly worn. A cloth mask can be dampened with water to help remove additional particles from the air related to wildfire smoke or a PM 2.5 mask found in hardware stores in the paint section can also help remove these particles from the air.
- Remember to stay hydrated. You're going to need more water than usual because smoke and ash dry out your lungs, making it harder to breathe. Saline nasal sprays and cough drops can help with throat irritation.
- The EPA has some additional tips on how to improve indoor air quality during wildfires: <https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/wildfires-and-indoor-air-quality-iaq>

Evacuation Resources

- The American Red Cross has developed a "Safe and Well" website for people affected by disaster to enter information regarding their welfare so family and friends can check their status. If you are worried about family or friends in the affected area, check out the website here: <https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php>
- We do encourage residents to be prepared by considering what they may need in case of an evacuation. It is a good idea to have a "Go-Bag" prepped in case of any urgent action. Lists of items to include in a go-bag can be found here: <https://www.ready.gov/kit>
- If you are affected by the current fires, check out Eugene Weekly list of resources for Lane County residents including information about shelters, pet resources and evacuations. The City of Eugene has also compiled information for Eugene Residents.
<https://www.eugeneweekly.com/2020/09/08/resources-in-lane-county-for-residents-affected-by-wildfires/>
<https://www.eugene-or.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=4600>
- If you are a Section 8 Participant AND a Veteran (even if you do not hold a VASH Voucher) and have lost your home due to the fires, the VA is offering resources. Please contact their staff for assistance:
 - Rosalie 541-315-6671
 - Janet 541-860-8461
 - or Trina 541-378-5609.

Stay safe everyone!

Homes for Good Housing Agency

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