

Smoke Visibility & PM_{2.5} Air Quality Index

Smoke Visibility in Miles	AQI Categories	AQI Cautionary Statements
10 miles & up	Good	None.
6 to 9	Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
3 to 5	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should limit prolonged exertion.
1 ¹ / ₂ to 2 ¹ / ₂	Unhealthy	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion.
³ / ₄ to 1 ¹ / ₂	Very Unhealthy	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid any outdoor activity; everyone else should avoid prolonged exertion.
³ / ₄ mile or less	Hazardous	Everyone should avoid any outdoor exertion; people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should remain indoors.

To help get a better visibility estimate:

1. Face away from the sun.
2. Determine the limit of your visible range by looking for targets at known distances (miles).
3. Visible range is that point at which even high contrast objects totally disappear.

Please note: This guide is to be used for assessing general PM_{2.5} levels, not for comparing particular concentrations to the EPA standard.