



Degraded Air Quality This Weekend

From Canadian Wildfire Smoke

May 13, 2025

3:54 PM

Key Messages

- Heavy wildfire smoke will degrade air quality this weekend across the region.
- There is high confidence in air quality impacts between Saturday morning through Sunday evening.
- This could be a significant smoke event, resulting in health impacts for all populations, as well as reduce visibility to half mile.

***Protect yourself
from wildfire smoke.***

Monitor the air quality
for your zip code at
airnow.gov

 Stay indoors and keep windows closed.
Keep your pets indoors too!

 When using air conditioning, keep the
outdoor air intake closed and clean the filter
to prevent outdoor smoke from getting inside.

 If you go outside, avoid exertion and consider
wearing a respirator (N95 or P100 mask).

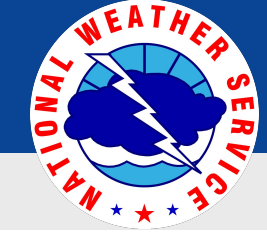
 weather.gov

[Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#)
[Air Quality Forecast](#)



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Grand Forks, ND

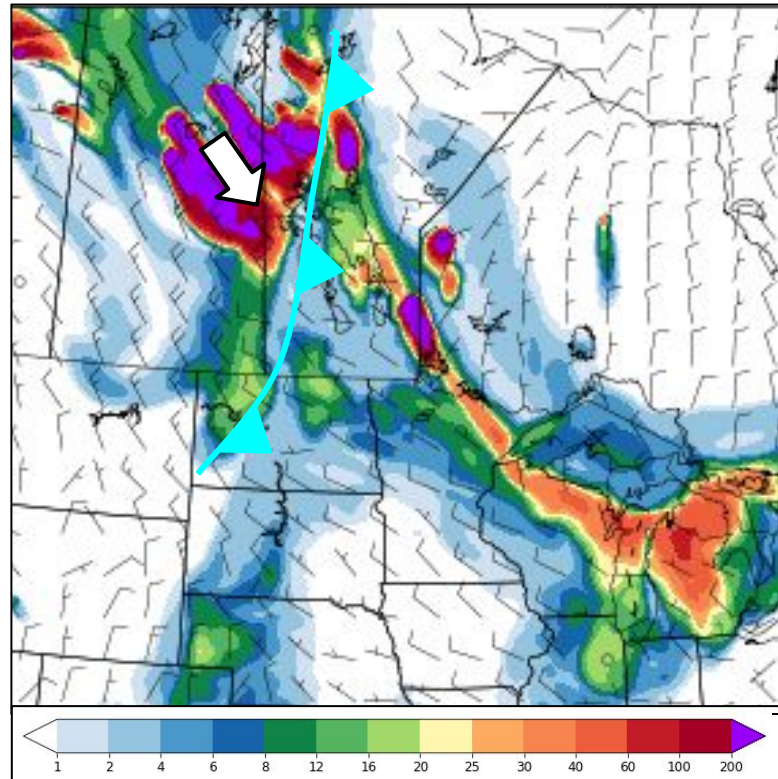


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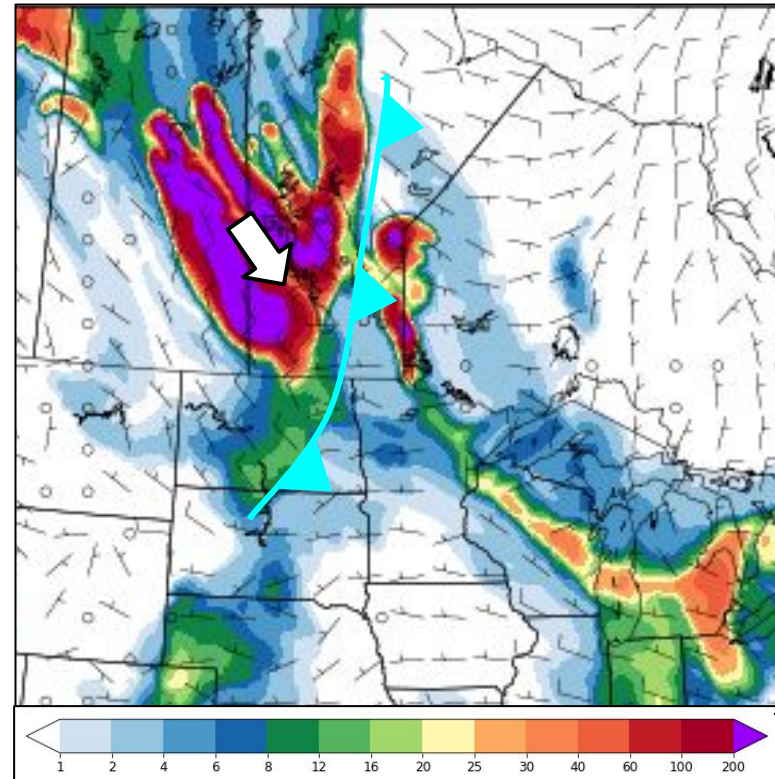
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Model Guidance / Forecast Discussion

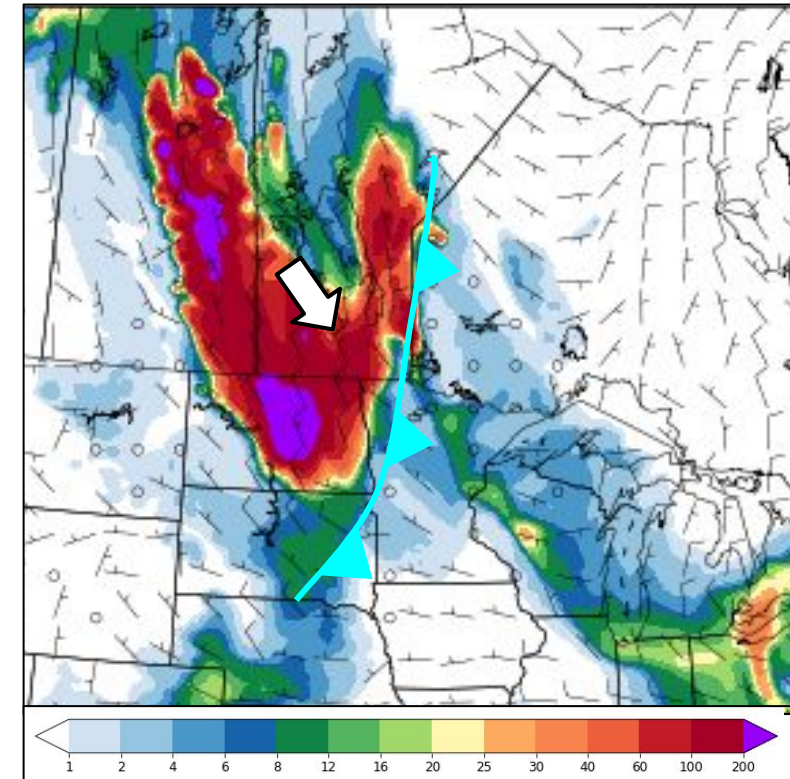
Fri 7 PM



Sat 1 AM



Sat 7 AM



How to read: the above depiction shows modeled smoke concentration near the surface (warmer colors = thicker smoke concentration). This only shows a possible scenario of how smoke will move, and is not an official forecast.

Forecast Discussion: Northwest winds behind a cold front will bring heavy smoke from Canadian wildfires into the Northern Plains starting Saturday morning. While there is high confidence in dense enough smoke to degrade air quality into the “unhealthy category” of the Air Quality Index, there remains uncertainty on how dense smoke will be as it moves through the Northern Plains, as well as how long smoke will linger through Sunday, potentially into next week. It remains possible that smoke could become “very unhealthy” or “hazardous” at times during this event. This could be a significant smoke event, and health impacts are possible for all populations



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Air Quality Guide for Particle Pollution

Air Quality Index	Sensitive Population Groups*	Everyone Else
Unhealthy (151 - 200)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoid long or intense outdoor activities.• Consider rescheduling or moving activities indoors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce long or intense activities.• Take more breaks during outdoor activities.
Very Unhealthy (201 - 300)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoid all physical activity outdoors.• Reschedule to a time when air quality is better or move activities indoors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoid long or intense activities.• Consider rescheduling or moving activities indoors.
Hazardous (301 - 500)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoid all physical activity outdoors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remain indoors and keep activity levels low.• Follow tips for keeping particle levels low indoors.
<p>*Those who can be considered within the sensitive population group include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People with heart disease• People with lung disease, including asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).• Older adults.• Children and teenagers because their lungs are still developing, and they breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults.• Pregnant women.• Minority populations.• Outdoor workers.		

Information courtesy of United States Environmental Protection Agency ([link](#))





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Messaging / Safety / Preparedness Resources

Graphical Messaging Resources:

- [NWS Social Media - Wildfire / Smoke Safety Graphics](#)
- [NWS Social Media - Air Quality](#)
- [NWS Grand Forks Weather Stories](#)
- [NWS Wildfire Infographics](#)

Additional Safety / Preparedness Resources:

- [AirNow.gov - Be Smoke Ready](#)
- [AirNow.gov - Activity Guides](#)
- [AirNow.gov - Air Quality and Health](#)
- [EPA Smoke- Ready Toolbox](#)
- [Minnesota Department of Health - Wildfire Smoke](#)

Additional Forecast Resources

[NWS Grand Forks Website](#)
[Real-Time Air Quality Index](#)
[Observations](#)

[Latest Forecast - Hourly Details](#)
[Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#)
[Air Quality Forecast](#)



Wildfires Are A Health Risk.

Smoke from wildfires can...

- ...hurt your eyes
- ...irritate your lungs
- ...and worsen respiratory illness



weather.gov