



## City of Edmonds Media Release

Office of the Mayor ~ 121 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Edmonds

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 20 August 2018***

To: Media

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### **Unhealthy Air Due to Wildfire Smoke Sparks Local Health Alerts**

***City Postpones Staff Softball Game, Moves Summer Camps Indoors, and Monitors Potential Closure of Yost Park Pool***

**(Edmonds, WA)** – The City of Edmonds joins the surrounding Puget Sound Region in battling poor air quality due to wildfire smoke and is warning community members to take precautions, such as avoiding outdoor activities if possible. The City has postponed its staff softball game due to air quality concerns and is on alert from Dale Turner YMCA, operator of Yost Pool, for possible pool closures later today and particularly tomorrow. All City of Edmonds summer camps have been moved indoors except Skyhawks Football Camp, which continues outdoors on a reduced level of exertion. Tomorrow, the Skyhawks will re-evaluate and if necessary move into the gym at the Frances Anderson Center.

According to the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (the air quality management agency serving King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties), as of Sunday August 19<sup>th</sup>, air pollution was increasing due to wildfire smoke and may cause health problems. Air quality levels rose more quickly than expected in the Puget Sound Region and have now reached unhealthy levels in Edmonds and surrounding areas. As a result, health officials recommend everyone stay indoors when possible. With winds pushing smoke from fires in British Columbia and the Cascades in our direction, poor air quality is expected to continue through Wednesday.

Air quality updates and recent conditions can be found on the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency's website at <https://www.pscleanair.org/>. According to the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, wildfire smoke can cause a range of health problems, including:

- Trouble breathing
- Coughing
- Stinging eyes
- Irritated sinuses
- Headaches
- Asthma attack
- Chest pain
- Fast heartbeat

The agency advises everyone to take precautions, especially children, older adults, and people who are pregnant, have heart or lung issues (asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease COPD), or who have had a stroke. Precautions include:

- Stay indoors when possible.
- Limit your physical activity outdoors, such as running, bicycling, physical labor, and sports.
- Close windows in your home, if possible, and keep the indoor air clean. If you have an air conditioner, use the "recirculation" switch. Use an indoor air filter if available.
- If you do not have an air conditioner, consider finding a public place with clean, air conditioned indoor air like a public library or a community center.
- Avoid driving when possible. If you must drive, keep the windows closed. If you use the car's fan or air conditioning, make sure the system recirculates air from inside the car; don't pull air from outside.
- Schools, camps, sports teams, and daycare providers should consider postponing outdoor activities or moving them indoors.
- N95 or N100 rated masks can help protect some people from air pollution. These masks are usually available at hardware and home repair stores. Please check with your doctor to see if this is appropriate for you.

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