



Arkansas Department of Health

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Arkansas Department of Health Review of Particulate Matter Air Monitoring near Trafalgar Road Fire 2/5/2019

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) has evaluated fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) data collected by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) from January 28, 2019 to January 30, 2019 at the Bella Vista Fire Department Station 2, and at the city transfer station (Pump Station) near Cooper Elementary School. The PM_{2.5} levels observed during the monitoring period indicate the air quality was within the following Air Quality Index (AQI) range values:

| Date | Fire Station 24 Hour PM _{2.5} Concentration (µg/m ³) | Fire Station 24 Hour Air Quality Index (AQI) | AQI Category |
|------------------|---|--|--------------|
| January 28, 2019 | 4.04 | 17 | Good |
| January 29, 2019 | 5.42 | 23 | Good |
| January 30, 2019 | 3.62 | 15 | Good |

µg/m³=micrograms per cubic meter

| Date | Pump Station by Cooper Elementary 24 Hour PM _{2.5} Concentration (µg/m ³) | Pump Station by Cooper Elementary 24 Hour Air Quality Index (AQI) | AQI Category |
|------------------|--|---|--------------|
| January 28, 2019 | 2.87 | 12 | Good |
| January 29, 2019 | 3.92 | 16 | Good |
| January 30, 2019 | 4.04 | 17 | Good |

µg/m³=micrograms per cubic meter

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed the [Air Quality Guide for Particle Pollution](#) to help people make informed decisions on outdoor activity related to all PM levels. Individuals with health concerns should talk with their doctor. All individuals should consider spending less time outdoors when they can see or smell smoke in the air. People who suffer from breathing issues or lung diseases [such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD)]; those with heart disease; pregnant women; infants and young children; teenagers; and older adults can be more sensitive to particulate matter in air.

Public Health Statement for AQI Category:

Good (0 to 50): Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little to no risk.

Conditions in the area surrounding the Trafalgar Road fire will continue to change depending on weather, wind direction, and activity at the site. Breathing in smoke may cause eye and respiratory tract (throat, chest and nose) discomfort and irritation.

When smoke or strong odors are present, people in the area may protect themselves by taking the following actions:

- If it looks smoky outside, it is a good idea to limit exertion (running, yardwork, playing) during outside activity.
- If you have asthma or other lung diseases, you should follow your doctor's directions or asthma management plan.
- Run your Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system and keep your air filter clean.
- If you have heart or lung disease, if you are an older adult, or if you have a child, talk with your doctor about whether or when you should leave the area.

PM monitoring measures the amount of solid and liquid droplets found in the air such as ash, dust, and smoke. The amount of PM in the air provides a snapshot of local air quality and how air quality may affect health. Several types of PM are collected based on size in micrometers. For example, there are PM_{2.5} for small or fine particles and PM₁₀ for large particles. PM in the air is highly variable based on the source of the particulates, weather conditions, the location of the monitor, and activity near the monitor. PM monitoring data does not identify the source of the PM, which may come from a wide range of natural and manmade sources such as smoke, dust and automobile exhaust.

For inquiries related to PM evaluations, contact ADH Environmental Epidemiology at adh.ts@arkansas.gov.

Reference: Air Quality Index (AQI) Basics; <https://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=aqibasics.aqi>. Environmental Protection Agency. Accessed February 4, 2019.