



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

St. Joseph County Department of Health

"Promoting physical and mental health and facilitating the prevention of disease, injury and disability for all St. Joseph County residents"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

VERY UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY AND RESTRICTIONS ON BURNING

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has issued an [Air Quality Action Day \(AQAD\)](#) in the *Unhealthy Air Quality Index range* for St. Joseph County and the surrounding area, and is forecasting high levels of fine particles (PM_{2.5}) in the air for today, Tuesday, June 27 and Wednesday, June 28, due to the presence of smoke from the Canadian wildfires. The [Air Quality Index \(AQI\)](#) is currently in the Purple "Very Unhealthy" category, which means all members of the general public may experience health effects, including coughing, wheezing, reduced lung function, asthma attacks, heart attacks, and strokes. Those with existing medical conditions such as asthma, heart disease, and COPD are at a higher risk and should take precautions seriously.

The St. Joseph County Department of Health is highly recommending you to take the following steps to protect you and your family:

- **People with heart or lung disease, older adults, children, and teens:** Reduce your exposure by avoiding strenuous outdoor activities or keeping outdoor activities short. Consider moving physical activities indoors.
- **Everyone else:** Reduce your exposure by choosing less strenuous activities or shortening the amount of time you are active outdoors.

Pursuant to [County Code 92.03](#), the County Health Officer has determined that conditions are unfavorable for any burning and therefore, NO burning may be conducted during this time. This restriction will continue until more favorable meteorological conditions exist

This includes:

- Celebratory fires;
- Fires used for recreational and cooking purposes (i.e., camp fires);
- Residential burning; and
- Farm burning such as the burning of fence rows, clearing of drainage ditches, or burning of pruned limbs.

For more information about local air quality, go to the St. Joseph County Department of Health's website. (<https://www.in.gov/localhealth/stjosephcounty/environmental-health/air-quality/>).

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