

Be Air Aware

Wildfires

Because of the dry climate, wildfires can be a big problem for Colorado residents. According to the [National Inter-agency Fire Center](#), there were 1,190 wildfires in 2016, that burned a total of 129,495 acres. Wildfire smoke contains small particles that can irritate your eyes, throat, and lungs. These particles may be especially harmful to those with heart disease, respiratory illnesses, the very young, and the elderly, who may want to remain indoors and limit outdoor activity when moderate to heavy smoke is present. [Sign up](#) to receive updates from us when air quality is expected to become unhealthy. You can also visit our [website](#) for updates. Here at the Air Pollution Control Division, we work hard to improve air quality across the state and keep you informed about conditions in your area.

Learn more:

- [Fire bans](#)
- [Health effects of smoke](#)
- [Health recommendations](#)
- [Smoke health concerns](#)
- [EPA AirNow](#)

What can YOU do?

- Check your [local air quality](#)
- Keep windows and doors closed
- Avoid lighting candles, using the fireplace, or smoking indoors
- Learn more through the [CDC](#) or the [National Fire Protection Association](#)

Citizen Science Spotlight:

The [Soaring Eagle Ecology Center \(SEEC\)](#) in Red Feather Lakes has been awarded two consecutive AirWaterGas (AWG) grants to run a citizen science project that uses small air quality monitors to look for air quality trends related to elevation and population density in Colorado. SEEC also collaborates with science teachers to educate students in elementary schools about air quality issues and offers free programs for students focusing on visibility and particulates in the air.

These projects collect very important data and foster an encouraging learning environment for a new generation of scientists! Visit their [website](#) for more information about SEEC's free environmental and science programs. Thank you, SEEC, for doing your part in educating our children and keeping our state's air clean!

