

Summer of 2017 and 2018

Impact of the Smoke on Southern Oregon

Southern Oregonians for Clear Skies



September 7, 2017





November 9, 2017 – Carnegie Building, Medford

DEQ Air Quality – Jackson/Josephine Counties

2017

- Aug 1 - Aug 21 – Moderate 60-137 PM2.5 AQI
- Aug 22 – Sept 1 – Unhealthy 157-194.2 PM2.5 AQI
- Sept 2 – Sept 6 - Very Unhealthy 210-293 PM2.5 AQI
- Sept 7 – Sept 17 - Unhealthy to Moderate

- Seven weeks of poor air quality in Southern Oregon

Smoke From Wildfires are Deadly

- Wildfires fill the air with the byproducts of combustion – including PM2.5
- Research shows that these particles degrade health and contribute to thousands of deaths each year in the U.S.
- Researchers report that billions of dollars, or even tens of billions of dollars, is the magnitude of the cost caused by wildfires due to health impact incidences.

USA TODAY NETWORK, Oct 11, 2017

- California fires produced as much pollution in 2 days as all the state's Cars do in a Year

In the past two days, fires in California's wine country are thought to have produced as much small particular matter as all the vehicles in the state produce in a year.

L. A. Times April 3, 2019

- Big wildfires put to shame the regular sources of PM2.5, such as power plants, diesel trucks and wood stoves. The Atlas and Tubbs fires, which killed 31 people in Napa and Sonoma counties in October, 2017 produced approx. 50,000 tons of PM2.5. that's the equivalent of three years' worth of typical human caused pollution from the Bay Area.

Jackson County Health and Human Services

- August 30, 2017 Jackson County public health officials advised schools and athletic departments to be aware of wildfire smoke and to utilize the Public Health Guidance for Outdoor Activities during Wildfire smoke Events.
- Dr. Shames said children are particularly sensitive to smoke – their respiratory systems are still developing and they have smaller airways.

U. S. Cellular Community Park



Travel Medford - 2017

Cancelations due to poor air quality

- The Rogue Valley Softball Assoc, canceled Senior Softball Fall Classic 36 teams were scheduled to play, economic impact loss - \$227,500
- US Tennis Assoc of Pacific NW regional championships cancelled, 500 athletes were expected to play, economic impact loss - \$307,000
- Rogue Run Marathon canceled – economic impact loss - \$65,000
- Cycle Oregon canceled – first time in 30 years, over 2,000 riders and 150 volunteers in our community for 7 days, approx. \$350,000.
- Britt Festival – one cancelation and one reschedule--- economic loss to Britt \$78,000
- And other impacts to the Expo, Harvest Fair and vineyard events.

2018 Update

- **CANCELLED:**

- Rogue Valley Senior Softball Tournament 50 Teams
- King of the Rogue White Water Event
- Rogue Run Marathon/Half Marathon moved to
October (it was cancelled last year) Attendance was down significantly

- **BRITT**

- 2 Orchestra concerts cancelled – 5 moved indoors
- Overall attendance down 8,000
- Total loss \$150,970

Crater Lake was down on visitation by 22% - over 50,000 people

Hellgate Jet Boats down 20% - 13,000 visitors - \$650,000 loss

Galice Resort has filed for financial assistance 4 of their 6 months
“smoked out”

All aboard Trolley Tours was down 80%

Platinum Excursions down 80% due to smoke cancellations

Medford’s Rogue Valley Int’l airport had dozens of cancellations and delays due to low visibility from smoke.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival 2017

- Nine performances cancelled – direct loss \$370,000 in sales
- Loss in normal walk up sales - \$100,000
- Collateral losses estimated at \$600,000

2018 UPDATE

- 26 performances cancelled
- Loss in ticket sales over \$2,000,000

- 85% of Shakespeare Audiences are non Rogue Valley residents and they stay in local hotels, motels, B&Bs, eat in restaurants, attend wine tasting, and enjoy all the Rogue Valley has to offer.
- The average tourist spent \$167.40 per day adding up to \$57,200,747 during the year.
- The Oregon Shakespeare Festival estimates the total impact they have to the local economy, including tourists, guests, and employees is over \$130 million per year.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival 2018

- 16 Performances cancelled year to date at \$60,000 per performance.
- Britt has moved to an indoor venue

Mercy Flights

- The 2018 wildfires had an adverse impact in their ability to transport patients in need by helicopter due to poor visibility created by the fires
- During the 2018 wildfires season there were 49 requests to transport patients by helicopter that they had to decline due to FAA visibility rules.
- They estimate a loss of \$500,000 due to not being able to transport these patients.

Brookings, Oregon ocean view from the Best Western



August 17, 2017



August 19, 2017

2017 Fires

- Total Oregon Fires 725,615 acres**
- Total Southwest Oregon Fires 344,825 acres

- Total Oregon Department of Forestry Costs – approx. \$33 Million
- Total Federal Fire fighting costs approx. \$350 Million
- (updated total as reported on local media 1/11/18 \$454Millions)

- Estimated Total cost to Oregon with business and other cost impacts – roughly 10 times the fire fighting cost. So:
 - Total estimated Cost of Fires in Oregon is \$3.83 Billion,
(based on information from OFRI articles and previous studies.*

- ** ODF report dated 9//2017 *SOTIA report dated 9/2017

2018 Fires

• Total Oregon Fires	725,615	
		Increase over 2017
• Total Oregon DFS costs	\$41.5 million	\$8.5 million
• Total Federal DFS costs	\$472 million	\$112 million