

HOW TO ESTIMATE THE AIR QUALITY USING VISIBILITY?



You can estimate visibility in smoky conditions by identifying how far you can clearly see landmarks such as buildings, hills, or trees. This visibility estimate can then be matched with a corresponding air quality category using the federal Air Quality Index (AQI), which helps you understand the potential health risks associated with the current level of smoke in the air.

US AQI Level	Visibility	Health Recommendation (for 24 hour exposure)
Good	10 or more miles	Air quality is satisfactory and poses little or no risk.
Moderate	5-10 miles	Sensitive individuals should avoid outdoor activity as they may experience respiratory symptoms.
Unhealthy For Sensitive Groups	3-5 miles	General public and sensitive individuals in particular are at risk to experience irritation and respiratory problems.
Unhealthy	1.5 – 3 miles	Increased likelihood or adverse effects and aggravation to the heart and lungs among general public.
Very Unhealthy	1-1.5 miles	General public will be noticeably affected. Sensitive groups should restrict outdoor activities.
Hazardous	Less than 1 mile	General public at high risk of experiencing strong irritations and adverse health effects. Should avoid outdoor activities.

The Air Quality Index, its corresponding visibility distance, and health recommendation.

