

UNDERSTANDING THE EPA AIR QUALITY INDEX VALUES

This Air Quality Index (AQI) is a value and associated color scale used to communicate daily air quality conditions for a specific region or location based on the current measured concentrations of 5 major pollutants; these pollutants include ozone (O₃), particulate matter (PM), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and carbon monoxide (CO). The six color-coded ratings (displayed in the table below) range from 0-500, with higher values signifying poor air quality while lower values signify cleaner air quality. Each index range is associated with a different level of health concern for the public. The AQI is designed to be a simple tool to report and forecast daily air quality in order to protect public health. More information can be found at <https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>.

US AQI Level	Value	Health Recommendation (for 24 hour exposure)
Good	0-50	Air quality is satisfactory and poses little or no risk.
Moderate	50-100	Sensitive individuals should avoid outdoor activity as they may experience respiratory symptoms.
Unhealthy For Sensitive Groups	101-150	General public and sensitive individuals in particular are at risk to experience irritation and respiratory problems.
Unhealthy	151-200	Increased likelihood or adverse effects and aggravation to the heart and lungs among general public.
Very Unhealthy	201-300	General public will be noticeably affected. Sensitive groups should restrict outdoor activities.
Hazardous	301+	General public at high risk of experiencing strong irritations and adverse health effects. Should avoid outdoor activities.

The Air Quality Index, its corresponding values, and their meaning.

To see the current air quality pollution concentrations on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and the corresponding AQI value and association health recommendation visit the Southern Ute Air Quality Ambient Monitoring Website at the following link.

<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/departments/epd/air-quality/ambient-monitoring/>



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