

Michipicoten First Nation

Wildfire & Air Quality Monitoring

Wednesday July 15, 2026

Michipicoten First Nation is closely monitoring the wildfire situation in the Algoma and Thunder Bay region. We have been told that the ash and smoke in our area is from the wildfires in the Thunder Bay region (not local).

We are closely monitoring the wildfires situation and will provide further updates if/when more information is presented by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). You can access information on the Ontario Forest Fires and view the Ontario Forest Fire Info Map by visiting <https://www.ontario.ca/page/forest-fires>.

We encourage the community to abstain from having campfires during this time to ensure everyone's safety. We are currently in the Extreme Fire Hazard Rating.

Please seek medical attention if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Severe coughing or wheezing
- Dizziness or fainting
- Symptoms that are getting worse despite staying indoors
- People with asthma or other lung conditions should keep their rescue inhaler and medications nearby

Please see attached a "Wildfires & Poor Air Quality: Tips to Stay Safe" poster on ways to help you through this time.

To report a wildland fire (including grass, brush and forest fires) call 310-FIRE (3473).

Wildfire Smoke & Poor Air Quality

Tips to Stay Safe

Your Health is important. Smoke from forest fires can affect everyone, especially children, older adults, pregnant people, and those with asthma, COPD, heart disease, or other chronic health conditions.

Protect Yourself

- Stay indoors as much as possible when air quality is poor.
- Keep windows and doors closed. Use air conditioning on recirculate setting if available.
- Avoid strenuous outdoor activities such as running, sports, or heavy work.
- If you must go outside, limit the amount of time you spend outdoors.
- If available, wear a well-fitting N95 mask when outside. Cloth masks do not protect against wildfire smoke.

Keep Indoor Air Cleaner

- Avoid burning candles, incense, smoking indoors, and using wood stoves.
- Vacuum only if using HEPA-filter as regular vacuums can stir up particles.
- Use a portable HEPA air purifier if you have one.

Watch for Symptoms: Seek medical care if you experience

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Severe coughing or wheezing
- Dizziness or fainting
- Symptoms that are getting worse despite staying indoors
- People with asthma or other lung conditions should keep their rescue inhaler and medications nearby

Protect Children and Elders

- Keep children indoors during periods of heavy smoke.
- Check on Elders and those living alone to ensure they are safe in a cool place with cleaner air.
- Make sure family members have enough medication and drinking water.

Stay Hydrated

- Drink plenty of water.
- Rest if you feel tired or have a headache from the smoke.

Stay Informed

- Monitor local air quality and follow any community advisories regarding smoke, cooling centres and evacuation notices.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to
Kylee Kudlac, MFN Health & Social Services Manager at 705-914-0967.

This message is shared by the Michipicoten First Nation Health & Social Services Department.

