



CHECK YOUR AIR THIS FOURTH OF JULY

A live look at the particle pollution around you, so you can see what is really in the air before and after the fireworks.

After reading about what is actually in fireworks smoke, you might be wondering how the air looks where you live. This free, live map lets you check it in real time, right down to your own neighborhood.

— WHAT IS THIS MAP?

It is the **AirNow Fire and Smoke Map**, run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency together with the U.S. Forest Service. It shows real-time air quality using thousands of sensors and monitors across the country, with a focus on fine particle pollution known as **PM2.5**. That is the same tiny, lung-deep pollution that fireworks send into the air during a show.

— WHY IT MATTERS AROUND THE FOURTH

When fireworks burn, they release a surge of PM2.5 that can spike air pollution for several hours and linger into the next day. Most healthy adults bounce back quickly, but **children, older adults, pets, and anyone with asthma or another respiratory condition** can feel it more. A quick look at the map helps you decide how close to get, when to head indoors, and whether to keep the windows shut overnight.

— HOW TO USE IT

- 1 Open the map and let it find your location, or type in your town or zip code.
- 2 Tap any colored dot near you to see the current reading and what it means for your family.
- 3 Check it before the show and again the next morning, and you can watch the spike for yourself.

SEE YOUR LOCAL AIR QUALITY HERE

fire.airnow.gov

Open the Map →



Good to know: This map is built mainly to track wildfire smoke, so if there are no wildfires near you it may read calm until the fireworks actually start. For a simple, anytime check of the air in your area by zip code, you can also visit airnow.gov.