

**CASCADE WILD FIRE UPDATE
MEDICAL EFFECTS OF THE CASCADE WILD FIRE
UPDATE SHEET**

There is currently a volunteer medical evacuation recommended for persons with chronic heart or lung disease, and especially for individuals on home oxygen therapy. The present Health Effect Category for Red Lodge is in the Very Unhealthy Category and could worsen if suspected weather conditions materialize over the next two days. Individuals falling within this category include those with diagnoses of:

- 1) Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
- 2) Emphysema.
- 3) Asthma.
- 4) Coronary artery disease.
- 5) Congestive heart failure.

The elderly and children are particularly vulnerable.

Symptoms of smoke inhalation effect include

- 1) Shortness of breath,
- 2) Chest pain,
- 3) Irritated eyes,
- 4) Sore throat,
- 5) Heart palpitations,
- 6) Headache and
- 7) Weakness.

Please contact your local physician for questions concerning your specific medical issues.

Be advised that store-bought dust masks are ineffective for wild fire smoke effects.

William J George, MD

~~FAMILY MEDICINE~~

Carbon County Health Officer

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