

Air News

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Air Program

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Fireworks: air quality effects



Fireworks over Wingra Park in Madison, Wisconsin. Photo from Richard Hurd via flickr.

Celebrations for the Fourth of July are just around the corner. Millions of people will be watching brilliant fireworks displays from cities, towns and neighborhoods across the country. Each year, DNR receives calls from concerned citizens regarding the impact fireworks have on air quality.

Smoke from fireworks contains particle pollution, especially fine particles (PM_{2.5}). The DNR's air quality monitors have measured elevated concentrations of PM_{2.5} during and immediately after nearby fireworks displays. Real-time monitored levels of these particles can be viewed at DNR's [Current Air Quality webpage](#).

Fine particles in the air can get into the lungs and may affect those with respiratory health issues. Children, elderly adults and people with respiratory or cardiac conditions are most susceptible. These individuals should limit their use of personal fireworks, which produce smoke at ground level and can also be a [fire hazard \[PDF\]](#). People with respiratory health issues are encouraged to view fireworks displays from a distance.

For more information about the air quality and health effects from fireworks, please visit DNR's [fireworks webpage](#).