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Top DEP Stories

Tribune-Democrat: DEP warns of 'Code Purple' air pollution in Pa. from wildfire smoke

https://www.tribdem.com/news/local_news/dep-warns-of-code-purple-air-pollution-in-pa-from-wildfire-smoke/article_bd8473bc-6094-4f00-87cd-fed4e56b0e70.html

Erie Times: How bad is the smoke in Erie? Check these live air quality maps

<https://www.goerie.com/story/weather/2026/07/16/erie-pa-air-quality-smoke-maps-canadian-wildfires/90943066007/>

Bradford Era: Wildfire smoke covers Bradford, surrounding region

<https://www.bradfordera.com/2026/07/16/wildfire-smoke-covers-bradford-surrounding-region/>

Butler Eagle: Air quality expected to remain at code purple tomorrow

<https://www.butlereagle.com/20260716/air-quality-deteriorates-to-code-purple/>

Kane Republican: DEP declares statewide Code Purple air quality alert for Friday, July 17

https://www.kanerepublican.com/news/dep-declares-statewide-code-purple-air-quality-alert-for-friday-july-17/article_e4ba039e-6422-48aa-a99a-08c5226fe408.html

Ridgway Record: Haze covers Elk County area as smoke from Canadian wildfires covers US Midwest to parts of the East Coast; statewide Code Purple Air Quality alert issued for Friday

https://www.ridgwayrecord.com/news/haze-covers-elk-county-area-as-smoke-from-canadian-wildfires-covers-us-midwest-to-parts/image_5532f742-ed76-457a-8070-e6e7ab533030.html

The Derrick: DEP says air in Northwest Pennsylvania 'very unhealthy'

https://www.thederrick.com/free/dep-says-air-in-northwest-pennsylvania-very-unhealthy/article_21057cdc-89d8-4637-9582-44b3a1717297.html

Warren Times: Code Purple declared by state for region's air quality

<https://www.timesobserver.com/news/local-news/2026/07/code-purple-declared-for-regions-air-quality/>

Indiana Gazette: Unhealthy air is reported In Indiana area; another action day beckons Friday

https://www.indianagazette.com/news/unhealthy-air-is-reported-in-indiana-area-another-action-day-beckons-friday/article_15898018-6a11-435d-b69a-b4066c6e4d55.html

WJET-TV: 'Very Unhealthy' air quality index raises health concerns

<https://www.yourerie.com/news/local-news/very-unhealthy-air-quality-index-raises-health-concerns/>

Sharon Herald: Smoke creates 'hazardous' air quality alert here

https://www.sharonherald.com/news/local_news/smoke-creates-hazardous-air-quality-alert-here/article_660521c6-3f02-4065-b29b-7c8ee1e2e75a.html

Mentions

TribLive: Health officials stress limiting outdoor activity amid poor air quality

<https://triblive.com/local/regional/unhealthy-air-quality-conditions-in-western-pa-prompt-cancelations-and-warnings/>

Morning Call: Pa. declares Code Purple air quality alert statewide as Lehigh Valley reaches 'hazardous' levels

<https://www.mcall.com/2026/07/16/pa-code-purple-air-quality-alert-friday-wildfire-smoke/>

WOLF: Air quality improves across NEPA, but wildfire smoke remains a concern for busy weekend

<https://fox56.com/news/local/air-quality-improves-across-nepa-but-wildfire-smoke-remains-a-concern-for-busy-weekend>

Citizens Voice: Smoke from Canada wildfires expected to last through the weekend

<https://www.citizensvoice.com/2026/07/16/smoke-from-canada-wildfires-expected-to-last-through-the-weekend-2/>

Standard Speaker: Smoke from Canada wildfires expected to last through the weekend

<https://www.standardspeaker.com/2026/07/16/smoke-from-canada-wildfires-expected-to-last-through-the-weekend/>

Times News: Canadian Wildfire should dissipate this weekend

<https://www.tnonline.com/20260716/wildfire-smoke-should-dissipate-this-weekend/>

Daily Local: Pa. declares Code Purple for 'very unhealthy' air quality Friday as wildfire smoke worsens,

<https://www.dailylocal.com/2026/07/16/pa-code-purple-air-quality-alert-friday-wildfire-smoke/>

WHYY: Wildfire smoke sparks Code Red air quality warning for Pennsylvania

<https://whyy.org/articles/code-red-air-quality-pennsylvania-2026/>

CBS3: Why is the air quality bad in Philadelphia today? What to know about wildfire smoke in the Delaware Valley.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/philadelphia/news/bad-air-quality-philadelphia-canadian-wildfire-smoke/>

Levittown Now: UPDATED: Wildfire Smoke Triggers Code Purple For Friday

https://levittownnow.com/2026/07/16/wildfire-smoke-triggers-code-red-air-quality-warning-in-levittown-area/#google_vignette

Philly Burbs: Amazon triples its request for gas-powered generators in Falls

<https://www.phillyburbs.com/story/news/environment/2026/07/16/falls-data-center-bucks-county-amazon-install-286-emergency-generators-pollution/90940890007/>

Air

Public Source: Allegheny County, Pittsburgh nix Friday events, but smoke may clear Saturday
<https://www.publicsource.org/smoke-southwestern-pennsylvania-pittsburgh-allegheny-county-air-quality/>

Allegheny Front: What you can do to protect yourself from wildfire smoke
<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/what-you-can-do-to-protect-yourself-from-wildfire-smoke/>

WESA: Stagnant air traps wildfire smoke in Pittsburgh through Saturday; outdoor programs closed
<https://www.wesanews.org/environment-energy/2026-07-17/stagnant-air-wildfire-smoke>

WPXI: Wildfire smoke prompts Code Purple Air Quality Alert for all of Pennsylvania on Friday
<https://www.wpxi.com/weather/code-purple-air-quality-alert-issued-first-time/7EOT6Q2GXVGIVLKE5RFH24TBRO/>

WTAE: What is Code Red and Code Purple air quality?
<https://www.wtae.com/article/air-quality-alerts-code-red-purple/72758867>

WTAE: Code Purple air quality alert issued for all of Pennsylvania on Friday
<https://www.wtae.com/article/pennsylvania-code-purple-air-quality-wildfire-smoke/72819604>

WTAE: Kennywood, Sandcastle and Idlewild all closed due to Code Purple Air Quality Alert\
<https://www.wtae.com/article/kennywood-sandcastle-and-idlewild-all-closed-due-to-code-purple-air-quality-alert/73168952>

KDKA: Wildfire smoke in Pennsylvania to bring "very unhealthy" air quality on Friday
<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/air-quality-pennsylvania-friday-code-purple-wildfire-smoke/>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: As air quality issues take center stage, U.S. Steel's open house puts focus on new investment
<https://www.post-gazette.com/business/powersource/2026/07/17/us-steel-nippon-air-quality/stories/202607170032>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Wildfire smoke in Pittsburgh is causing dangerous air quality and prompting closures and cancellations
<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/weather-news/2026/07/17/pittsburgh-wildfire-smoke/stories/202607170041>

The Beaver County Times: Smoky air arriving from Canada prompts air quality alerts in PA
<https://www.timesonline.com/story/weather/2026/07/16/air-quality-alerts-issued-as-smoke-from-canada-wildfires-arrives-here-beaver-county-pa/90940781007/>

WNEP: Wildfire smoke fills the air across Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania
<https://www.wnep.com/article/news/local/lackawanna-county/wildfire-smoke-fills-the-air-across-northeastern-and-central-pennsylvania-canada-ontario/523-1264b04c-3663-457b-bfc5-0a773ad773e2>

WBRE: Air quality remains poor across Pennsylvania with some improvements

<https://www.2822news.com/weather/air-quality-remains-poor-across-pennsylvania-with-some-improvements/>

Pennlive: How much longer will smoke-driven air quality problems linger in Pa.?

<https://www.pennlive.com/weather/2026/07/how-much-longer-will-smoke-driven-air-quality-problems-linger-in-pa.html>

Lancaster Online: Code Purple air quality alert issued for Lancaster County, all of Pa.

https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/code-purple-air-quality-alert-issued-for-lancaster-county-all-of-pa/article_0af51326-58b2-4f52-93a0-1ab517a381e1.html

York Daily Record : Air quality has region under Code Purple alert by DEP

<https://www.ydr.com/story/news/local/2026/07/17/hazardous-air-quality-has-york-county-region-under-code-purple-alert/90953087007/>

York Daily Record: EPA chief blames Canada for U.S. wildfire smoke during York visit

<https://www.ydr.com/story/news/local/2026/07/16/epa-head-blames-canada-for-u-s-wildfire-smoke-in-visit-to-york-pa/90949312007/>

Reading Eagle: What is the air quality like right now? How to check it

<https://www.readingeagle.com/2026/07/16/what-is-the-air-quality-near-me-like-right-now-how-to-check-it-near-you-copy/>

CBS21: Wildfire smoke blurs Pennsylvania skyline

<https://local21news.com/news/local/gallery-wildfire-smoke-blurs-pennsylvania-skyline-ontario-canada-minnesota-pa-severe-weather-fog-air-quality-index>

FOX43: Outdoor attractions across Central PA close Friday due to poor air quality

<https://www.fox43.com/article/news/pennsylvania-outdoor-attractions-closing-list-code-purple-air-quality-alert/521-46e9fc34-b823-4c58-a7c7-2c357d17da29>

WGAL: Susquehanna Valley residents adjust plans as smoky skies linger

<https://www.wgal.com/article/susquehanna-valley-residents-adjust-plans-smoky-skies-linger/72946842>

WTAJ: Pennsylvania residents warned to stay indoors as air quality reaches unhealthy levels

Pennsylvania residents warned to stay indoors as air quality reaches unhealthy levels

WFMZ: Organizers focus on kids' sports safety, as wildfire smoke causes air quality issues

https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/berks/organizers-focus-on-kids-sports-safety-as-wildfire-smoke-causes-air-quality-issues/article_807b2449-46a4-4900-9ea2-d86efb68313f.html

WFMZ: 'Very unhealthy': DEP issues Code Purple Air Quality Alert statewide for Friday

https://www.wfmz.com/weather/very-unhealthy-dep-issues-code-purple-air-quality-alert-statewide-for-friday/article_5d291800-0a05-4253-a6bb-c217bff361ed.html

6abc: LIVE UPDATES: Philadelphia downgrades to Code Red Air Quality Alert as wildfire smoke blankets area

<https://6abc.com/live-updates/air-quality-alerts-philadelphia-pennsylvania-new-jersey-delaware-due-canadian-wildfire-smoke/19521992/>

Fox29: Code Purple air quality alert issued in Pennsylvania for Friday, July 17: What we know
<https://www.fox29.com/news/code-purple-air-quality-alert-issued-pennsylvania-friday-july-17-what-we-know>

Fox29: Philadelphia air quality returns back to Code Red levels, storms to help clear conditions Saturday
<https://www.fox29.com/video/fmc-ecsnwealmakmuomf>

Fox29: Air quality safety tips: How to protect yourself during Code Purple, Red, Orange
<https://www.fox29.com/video/fmc-jr6e3apn70fjxl5n>

Philly Burbs: See air quality in Bucks County, Northeast due to Canadian wildfires
<https://www.phillyburbs.com/story/weather/2026/07/16/air-quality-alert-bucks-county-canada-wildfires-map-of-affected-regions/90943975007/>

Philly Burbs: Canadian wildfire smoke impacts Bucks County. PA under Code Red today
<https://www.phillyburbs.com/story/weather/severe/2026/07/16/pa-issues-code-red-air-quality-alert-due-to-canadian-wildfire-smoke/90940498007/>

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Wildfire smoke in Philly: Phillies game to start early; alert for 'very unhealthy' air quality for Friday; latest forecast
<https://www.inquirer.com/weather/live/philadelphia-wildfire-smoke-haze-timing-forecast-heat-20260716.html>

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Wildfire smoke in Philly is forecast to last into the weekend — and be followed by storms
<https://www.inquirer.com/weather/wildfire-smoke-philadelphia-weather-forecast-air-quality-20260717.html>

Patch.com: Code Red Air Quality Alert Issued In Lower Bucks Co.
<https://patch.com/pennsylvania/warminster/code-red-air-quality-alert-issued-lower-bucks-co>

WHYY: Do masks protect me from wildfire smoke? Experts say yes — with some caveats
<https://whyy.org/articles/philadelphia-wildfire-smoke-masks-n95/>

WHYY: Residents warned to stay indoors as Canadian wildfire smoke reaches dangerous levels in Philadelphia region
<https://whyy.org/articles/philadelphia-pa-wildfire-smoke-code-red-canada/>

WHYY: Philly pools closed, trash pickup canceled due to very unhealthy air
<https://whyy.org/articles/philadelphia-code-purple-wildfire-smoke-air-quality/>

Pottstown Mercury: Pa. declares Code Purple air quality alert statewide as some areas see 'hazardous' levels
<https://www.pottsmmerc.com/2026/07/16/pa-code-purple-air-quality-alert-friday-wildfire-smoke/>

The Reporter: What is the Air Quality Right now & How to Check it

<https://www.thereporteronline.com/2026/07/16/what-is-the-air-quality-near-me-like-right-now-how-to-check-it-near-you-copy/>

Climate Change

WHYY: 74% of Americans want action on climate, but many Philadelphians don't know they're part of a majority

<https://whyy.org/articles/philadelphia-climate-change-heat-waves-fan-fest/>

Data Centers

Sharon Herald: Sharon city council talks about regulating data centers

https://www.sharonherald.com/news/sharon-city-council-talks-about-regulating-data-centers/article_48a6d656-9b8b-497f-b823-f3618ffe386a.html

Standard Speaker: Salem Twp. supervisors OK master plan, vacating some streets for data center

<https://www.standardspeaker.com/2026/07/16/salem-twp-supervisors-ok-master-plan-vacating-some-streets-for-data-enter/>

Morning Call: Is a data center better than a warehouse in south Allentown neighborhood? Residents get first look at plans

<https://www.mcall.com/2026/07/17/allentown-emmaus-avenue-data-center-planning-commission-review/>

WVIA: Wildfire smoke fills the air across Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania

<https://www.wvia.org/news/local/2026-07-16/dep-declares-code-purple-air-quality-alert-for-all-of-pa-on-friday-as-wildfire-smoke-spreads>

Citizens Voice: Salem Twp. supervisors OK master plan, vacating some streets for data center

<https://www.citizensvoice.com/2026/07/16/salem-twp-supervisors-ok-master-plan-vacating-some-streets-for-data-enter/>

Lancaster Online: West Lampeter supervisors consider data center regulations, open space tax referendum

https://lancasteronline.com/news/regional/west-lampeter-supervisors-consider-data-center-regulations-open-space-tax-referendum/article_139edb66-66a9-4933-a27d-8170e69bd4cd.html

Lewistown Sentinel: Supervisors adopt data center ordinance

<https://www.lewistownsentinel.com/news/local-news/page/2/>

WITF: New poll finds opposition to data centers is growing among Pa. voters

<https://www.witf.org/2026/07/17/new-poll-finds-pennsylvanians-worse-off-financially-increasing-opposition-to-data-centers/>

Philly Burbs: Bucks County's first data center will open soon. What you need to know

<https://www.phillyburbs.com/story/news/environment/2026/07/17/amazon-data-center-falls-electric-water-bills-bucks-county-delaware-river-ai/90944312007/>

Pottstown Mercury: Another data center submits new plans

<https://www.pottsmmerc.com/2026/07/16/another-data-center-submits-new-plan-just-hours-before-new-rules-are-adopted/>

Drought

WFMZ: Drought warning causes concern, Reading Area Water Authority shares how community members can do their part

https://www.wfmz.com/weather/drought-warning-causes-concern-reading-area-water-authority-shares-how-community-members-can-do-their/article_90ce25b6-00d5-4ed4-a85e-50a67db2d7b4.html

Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields

Standard Speaker: Heating coils to vaporize dangerous chemical that persists beneath former West Hazleton factory

<https://www.standardspeaker.com/2026/07/16/heating-coils-to-vaporize-dangerous-chemical-that-persists-beneath-former-west-hazleton-factory/>

Central Bucks News: Company plans extraction to address jet fuel spill in Lower Bucks

<https://centralbucksnews.com/news/company-plans-extraction-to-address-jet-fuel-spill-in-lower-bucks/>

Waste

Latrobe Bulletin: DBMA welcomes new assistant manager and reduces flooding with new sewer lines

https://www.latrobebulletinnews.com/news/dbma-welcomes-new-assistant-manager-and-reduces-flooding-with-new-sewer-lines/article_46f47fe0-e2b1-4e09-9964-d1217739f757.html

CBS21: New PA law creates path for regulating smelly fertilizer on farms

<https://local21news.com/news/local/new-pa-law-creates-path-for-regulating-smelly-fertilizer-on-farms>

Water

Daily Courier: PUC Approves Smaller Than Requested Rate Changes for Pennsylvania American Water

https://www.dailycourier.com/news/puc-approves-smaller-than-requested-rate-changes-for-pennsylvania-american-water/article_087a9446-ef46-4754-ace3-25c52e2af287.html

Latrobe Bulletin: LTMA must decide possible rate structures before progressing on Fairfield water project

https://www.latrobebulletinnews.com/news/ltma-must-decide-possible-rate-structures-before-progressing-on-fairfield-water-project/article_5cad91e7-d58e-42d0-bcc6-ced7c71fb2ea.html

York Daily Record: EPA head learns about the sex lives of mussels during York County stop
<https://www.ydr.com/story/news/local/2026/07/17/epa-chief-lee-zeldin-tours-york-county-conservation-project/90944318007/>

Reading Eagle: Pennsylvania American Water cleared to raise rates
<https://www.readingeagle.com/2026/07/17/pennsylvania-american-water-cleared-to-raise-rates/>

Miscellaneous

Pittsburgh Business Times: Allegheny County projects snag nearly \$90 million as state reveals latest RACP grant winners
<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2026/07/16/state-grants-nearly-90-mil-racp.html>

Coal Region Canary: \$7M+ in State Grants Awarded to 4 Schuylkill County Projects
<https://coalregioncanary.com/2026/07/17/schuylkill-county-racp-grant-awards-2026/>

York Daily Record: Development is erasing southern York County's farmland
<https://www.ydr.com/story/opinion/readers/2026/07/17/development-threatens-southern-york-countys-identity-opinion/90927423007/>

Huntingdon Daily News: Asbestos cleanup to being at former school
https://www.huntingdondailynews.com/news/local/asbestos-cleanup-to-being-at-former-school/article_a322c4fb-fe41-4c1a-8412-5a481bbdc273.html