



ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
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NEWS RELEASE *for Immediate Release*

No. 2026 – 151

July 17, 2026, 11:30 a.m.

Code Red Air Quality Alert in Effect for St. Mary's County

LEONARDTOWN, MD – The St. Mary's County Department of Emergency Services is notifying residents that a Code Red Air Quality Alert is in effect for the area on Friday, July 17, 2026.

A Code Red Air Quality Alert means that air pollution concentrations within the region are unhealthy for the general population. It is recommended to avoid strenuous activity or exercise outdoors. Sensitive groups, such as children, elderly, and those with respiratory issues, may suffer more serious health effects.

This Code Red Air Quality Alert is caused by over 100 fires occurring in western Ontario, Canada. The combined wildfire smoke and ozone pollution simultaneously occurring with temperatures above normal has led to an air quality event for our area. Residents may see smoke or hazy skies throughout St. Mary's County.

If you notice smoke or the smell of smoke and believe it may be caused by a local fire, please call 9-1-1 to report.

Learn more about and prepare for potential emergencies at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/em.

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