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## Air quality a concern for Los Alamos

Updated: Monday, 04 Jul 2011, 5:52 PM MDT  
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LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (KRQE) - Los Alamos residents were allowed back home Sunday but today fire officials are pleading with them not to return to Los Alamos if they can avoid it.

That is because hazardous smoke in the area could cause major health problems for some people.

Fire Chief Doug Tucker said with thunderstorms moving in, the smoke will blanket the townsite.

That puts the air quality at unhealthy levels.

"We've seen 21 patients in the first 21 hours we've admitted five patients," President of Los Alamos Medical Center Curt Smith said. "Chief Tucker and chief Tropy, made the right decision to wait for the hospital to be open before they lifted the evacuation orders."

It is not known how many of those patients were because of smoke, but smith does say it has bothered some people.

Chief Tucker is advising people with low tolerance to the smoke to just stay out of the area.

Dizziness, headaches, shortness of breath, hoarseness and confusion are all signs of smoke inhalation.

If you experience any of those symptoms, health officials urge you to see a doctor.

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