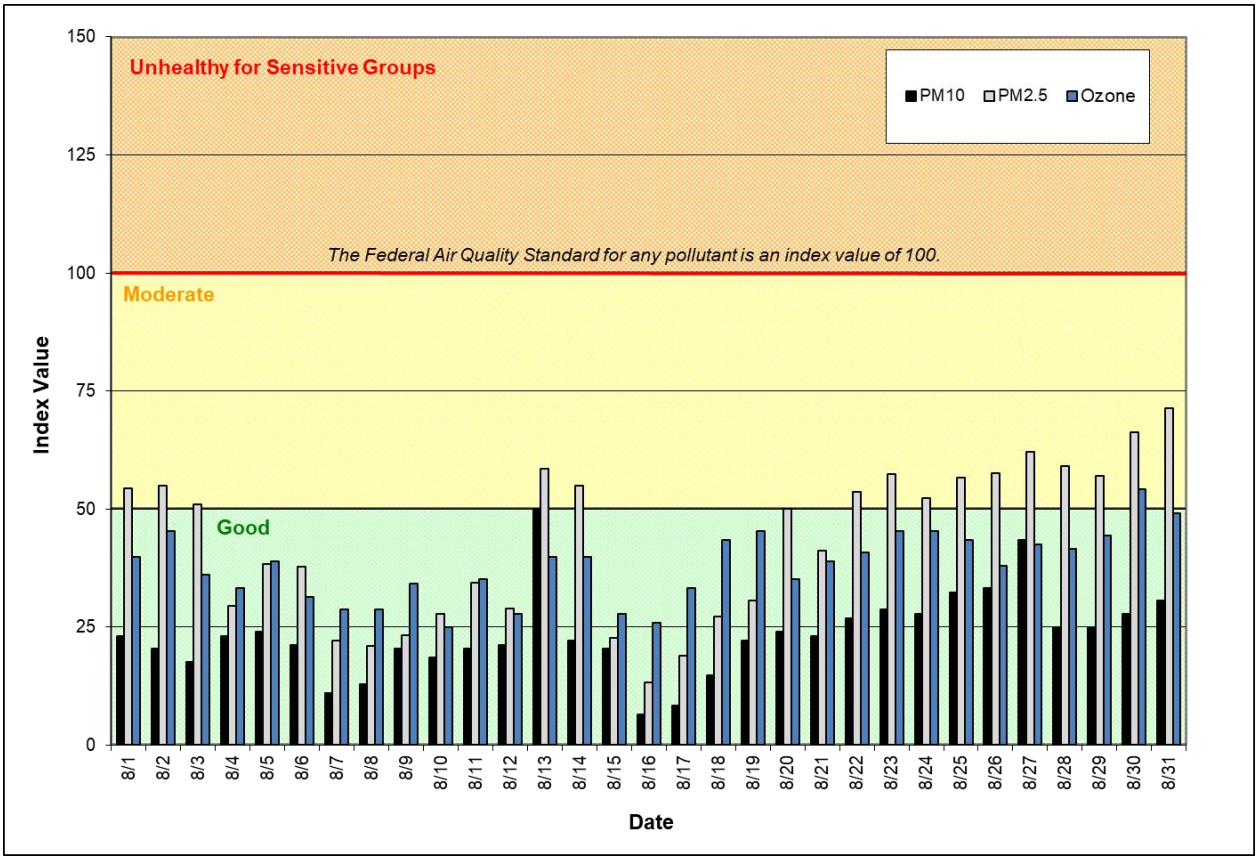
Air Quality Summary – August

In August, the Air Quality Index (AQI) was in the MODERATE category on 15 days and in the GOOD category on the remaining 16 days (**Figure 1**, **Table 1**). The predominant pollutant on most days, and all days in the AQI-MODERATE category, was $PM_{2.5}$. The highest daily AQI value for the month was 71, which was based on a 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ reading of 20.0 $\mu g/m^3$ recorded at the Spokane-Monroe & Wellesley station on the 31st (**Table 2**). PM_{10} remained in the GOOD range all month and ozone pollution reached the AQI-MODERATE level on one day. For January through August this year, there were 156 GOOD air quality days and 87 MODERATE with a maximum AQI of 74 (**Table 3**).

<u>Figure 1</u>: Daily Air Quality Index (AQI) values for August 2025. The data represent the maximum AQI values across the air monitoring network in Spokane County.



<u>Table 1</u>: Air Quality Index (AQI) summary, August 2025.

Category	Number of days in August	Number of days this year
Good (0-50)	16	156
Moderate (51-100)	15	87
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150)	0	0
Unhealthy (151-200)	0	0
Very Unhealthy (201-300)	0	0
Hazardous (>300)	0	0

Table 2: Maximum AQI values and pollutant concentrations for this reporting period.

Pollutant	AQI		Location	Date
Ozone	54 (concentration = 0.056 ppm)	Moderate	Spokane-Greenbluff	8/30
PM_{10}	50 (concentration = 54 µg/m^3)	Good	Spokane Valley – Augusta & Fiske	8/13
$PM_{2.5}$	71 (concentration = 20.0 µg/m^3)	Moderate	Spokane – Monroe & Wellesley	8/31

Table 3: Maximum AQI values and pollutant concentrations for 2025.

Pollutant	AQI		Location	Date
Ozone	74 (concentration = 0.062	Moderate	Spokane-Greenbluff	5/30 and 7/1
PM_{10}	51 (mass conc. = 55 µg/m^3)	Moderate	Spokane – Augusta & Fiske	1/28
$PM_{2.5}$	74 (conc. = 21.6 µg/m^3)	Moderate	Spokane – Augusta & Fiske	1/30

Wildfire Smoke – September 3-7

In September, the Air Quality Index reached the UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS (Orange) category for the first time this year when winds ranging from northwesterly to northeasterly carried smoke from wildfires in northeastern Washington, northern Idaho, northwestern Monday and southeastern British Columbia into the Spokane area. The NowCast (or current) AQI, which is reported on the Agency's website (and updated hourly) was in the MODERATE (yellow) and UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS (orange) categories and reached the UNHEALTHY (red) category briefly on the 6th (Saturday, **Figure 2**). The maximum 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ reading for the period was 45.5 µg/m^3 on the 6th at the Monroe St station in north Spokane (**Table 4**) with an AQI for the day of 126 (UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS, **Table 5**). The Broadway Ave station in Spokane Valley, the only $PM_{2.5}$ regulatory monitoring station in the local air monitoring network, recorded two exceedances of the PM2.5 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 35 µg/m^3 on the 5th and 6th. Data from the Broadway monitoring station are submitted to EPA and determine the Spokane/Spokane Valley area's compliance with the NAAQS. Despite the two monitored exceedances of the air quality standard, it is almost certain that the Spokane/Spokane Valley area will remain in compliance with the NAAQS for 2025 overall.

Figure 2: Hourly AQI (EPA NowCast, current AQI) values for September 3-7, Spokane County air monitoring stations.

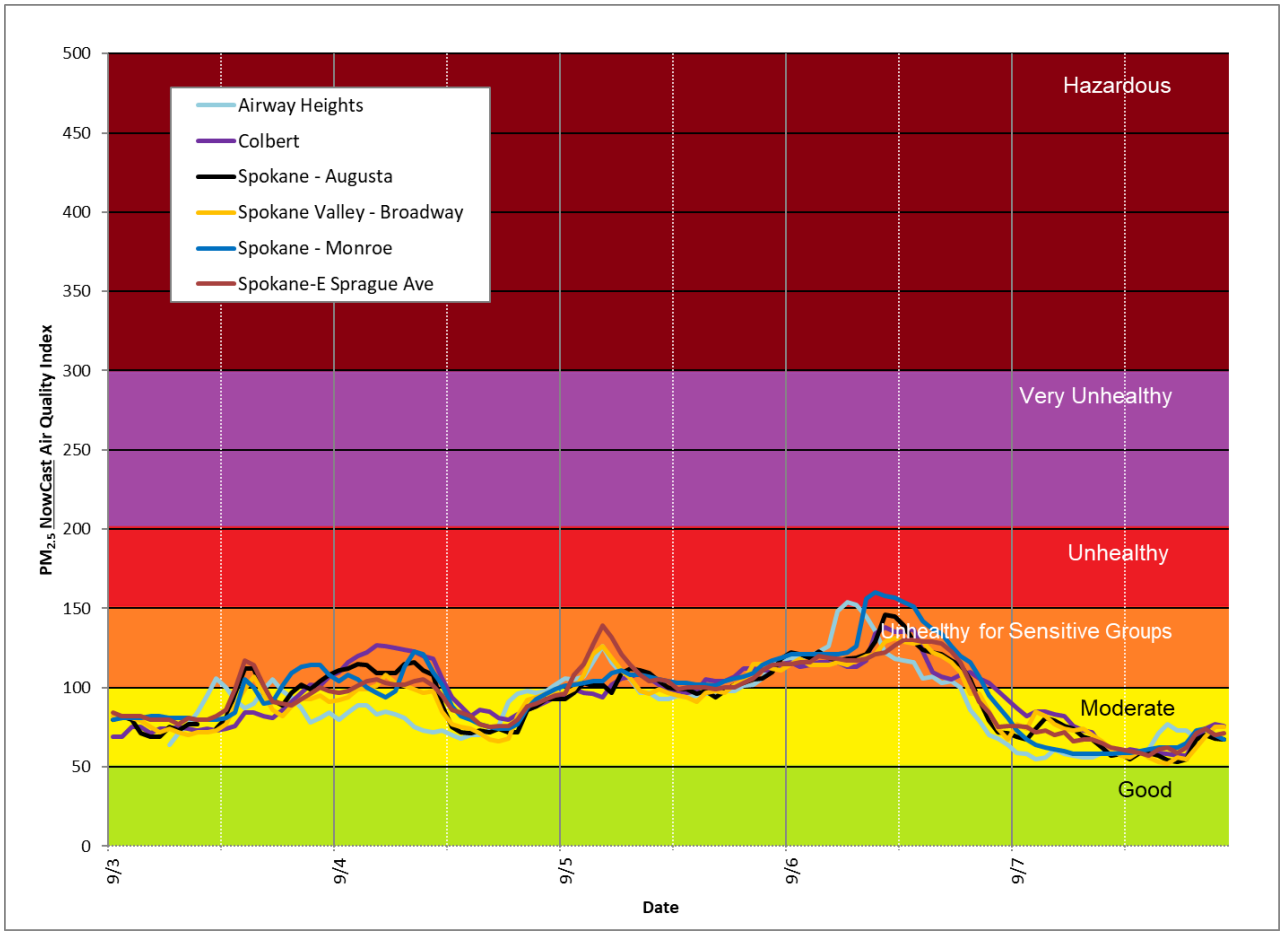


Table 4: 24-Hour PM2.5 mass concentration recorded at ambient air monitoring stations in Spokane County, September 3-7.

Date	Airway Heights	Colbert	E Broadway Ave	E Augusta Ave	E Sprague Ave	N Monroe St
3-Sep		27.0	26.7	29.9	30.0	31.1
4-Sep	25.5	35.1	29.5	30.7	31.2	32.0
5-Sep	36.2	37.6	37.6	37.5	39.8	38.8
6-Sep	41.2	40.3	38.2	39.1	39.0	45.5
7-Sep	15.1	18.8	17.6	16.1	16.7	15.5

Table 5: Daily Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at ambient air monitoring stations in Spokane County, September 3-7.

Date	Airway Heights	Colbert	E Broadway Ave	E Augusta Ave	E Sprague Ave	N Monroe St
3-Sep		84	84	90	90	92
4-Sep	82	99	89	91	92	94
5-Sep	103	106	106	106	112	109
6-Sep	115	113	108	110	110	126
7-Sep	62	69	67	64	65	63