

Air Quality Summary – September

Fine particle pollution (PM_{2.5}) levels exceeded federal air quality standards in Spokane County on three days in September (5th, 6th, and 27th) because of smoke transported from wildland fires burning across the region (**Figure 1**). The Air Quality Index (AQI) was in the UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS (USG) category on all three of those days and was only slightly under USG on three other days (3rd, 4th, and 28th). The highest daily AQI value for the month was 126, which was recorded at the air monitoring station located at Monroe & Wellesley in north Spokane. The PM_{2.5} 24-hour average mass concentration was 45.4 micrograms per cubic meter of air (µg/m³), the highest this year (**Tables 1 and 2**). The 24-hour federal standard for PM_{2.5} is 35 µg/m³.

The highest 24-hour average PM₁₀ concentration was 54 µg/m³ (AQI = 54, GOOD) and the highest 8-hour average ozone concentration was 0.056 ppm (AQI = 54, MODERATE). The AQI was in the GOOD category on five days, MODERATE on 22 days, and USG on three days for a total of 161 GOOD, 109 MODERATE, and three USG days in 2025 as of the end of September (**Table 3**).

Figure 1: Daily Air Quality Index (AQI) values for September 2025. The data represent the maximum AQI values for PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, and ozone across the air monitoring network in Spokane County.

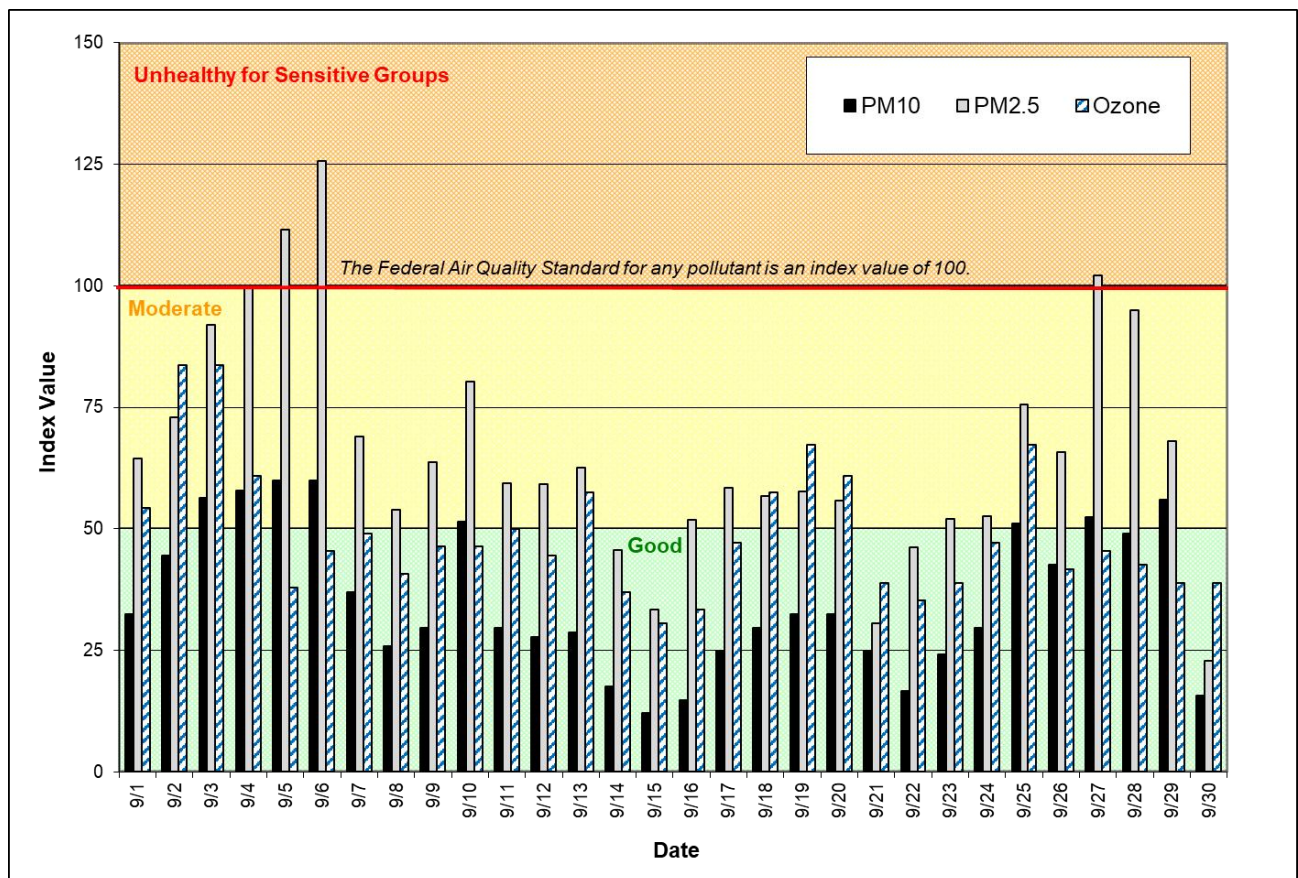


Table 1: Maximum AQI values and pollutant concentrations for this reporting period.

| Pollutant | AQI | | Location | Date |
|-------------------|---|----------|----------------------------------|------|
| Ozone | 54 (concentration = 0.056 ppm) | Moderate | Spokane-Greenbluff | 9/30 |
| PM ₁₀ | 50 (concentration = 54 µg/m ³) | Good | Spokane Valley – Augusta & Fiske | 9/13 |
| PM _{2.5} | 126 (concentration = 45.5 µg/m ³) | USG | Spokane – Monroe & Wellesley | 9/6 |

Table 2: 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} | 126 (conc. = 45.5 µg/m ³) | USG | Spokane – Monroe & Wellesley | 9/6 |

Table 3: Air Quality Index (AQI) summary, September 2025.

| Category | Number of days in September | Number of days this year |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Good (0-50) | 5 | 161 |
| Moderate (51-100) | 22 | 109 |
| Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, USG (101-150) | 3 | 3 |
| Unhealthy (151-200) | 0 | 0 |
| Very Unhealthy (201-300) | 0 | 0 |
| Hazardous (>300) | 0 | 0 |