

HILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 16, 2026

Hilton Fire Department Adopts Monroe County Air Quality Guidelines for Community Safety

HILTON, N.Y. — Following yesterday's Air Quality Health Advisory issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the subsequent public health guidance from Monroe County Executive Adam Bello, the Hilton Fire Department has announced that it is fully adopting and implementing the Monroe County air quality safety protocols. This decision is aimed at protecting the local community, municipal staff, emergency responders, and event participants from potential health hazards associated with incoming wildfire smoke.

The Hilton Fire Department, in coordination with the Webster Fire Department, and in consultation with our Medical Director, will continuously monitor local Air Quality Index (AQI) forecasts using www.airnow.gov. The departments will monitor their upcoming Carnival and Grand Parades—to ensure appropriate safety actions are taken if air conditions degrade. Both departments Grand Parade and Carnivals are still on schedule to take place this evening.

"The health and safety of our community and our volunteer firefighters is always our highest priority," said Hilton Fire Department Chief Dave Maggio. "With outdoor summer traditions underway, including our Grand Parade, we are keeping a vigilant eye on the atmosphere. We urge all community members to understand their individual health risk factors and follow these sensible guidelines to stay safe outside."

Monroe County Air Quality Safety Thresholds & Actions

The Hilton Fire Department advises residents, outdoor worker supervisors, camp directors, and sports league organizers to adhere strictly to the following actions based on current AQI metrics:

- **AQI 151–200 (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups):** Children under 18, adults 65+, pregnant women, outdoor workers, and individuals with heart or lung disease should monitor symptoms closely and limit prolonged strenuous outdoor activity. Summer camps and youth sports groups should reduce outdoor physical intensity, schedule regular breaks, and ensure immediate access to asthma medications.

- **AQI 201–300 (Very Unhealthy):** All outdoor youth activities, programs, and sports camps must be rescheduled or moved indoors. Competitive sports and intense training activities for all age groups are canceled. Organizers of non-strenuous outdoor events (such as community concerts and tours) must take mitigation actions, including shortening schedules or providing high-quality protective masks.
- **AQI Greater than 300 (Hazardous):** All outdoor events must be canceled, regardless of activity level. Outdoor work activities should be restricted or suspended. Local employers should assess indoor air quality and take active protective measures for staff.

Residents with specific medical conditions or questions regarding their personal risk factors are strongly encouraged to consult with their primary care provider. For continuous regional updates and direct outdoor air resource information, visit the Monroe County Department of Public Health at www.monroecounty.gov/eh-outdoorair.

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