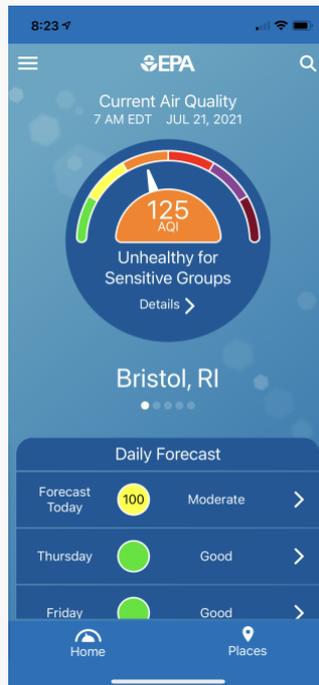


## Wildfire Smoke in Bristol, RI... from Western US. Vin Ratford

Yesterday (7/20) I noticed that my [Canāree A1](#) located in my office in Bristol, RI started reading AQI values ~120 (orange, unhealthy) after weeks of green values. I wondered why?

Went out for a cruise on Narragansett Bay from 7-9 pm and the air smelled like burnt wood, the sky was hazy with a yellow/orange moon. I overhear someone say it's due to wildfire smoke. I think she's mistaken.

This morning at 6:30 AM, Canāree continues to show unhealthy air. I take a 4.5 mile walk outdoors, same smell and the Boston NPR radio station states [haze from wildfires](#) in Western US (Oregon and California) would affect us all day. Checked [AirNow](#), the EPA site and saw same warning with PM <2.5 being most of it. This station is in Fall River ~20 miles away.



Below is the Canāree indoor data for the last 24 hours. The historical data from my [Canāree is here](#). Note the increase in PM<sub>2.5</sub> and 1.0 ~3 pm yesterday when wildfire smoke entered the area. I also have a Sensirion SPS30 PM sensor which reports about half the amount of PM and identical values for PM<sub>10</sub>, 2.5, 1.0 so it doesn't see the <1.0 PM values, can't report smoke and is off by 50 %.

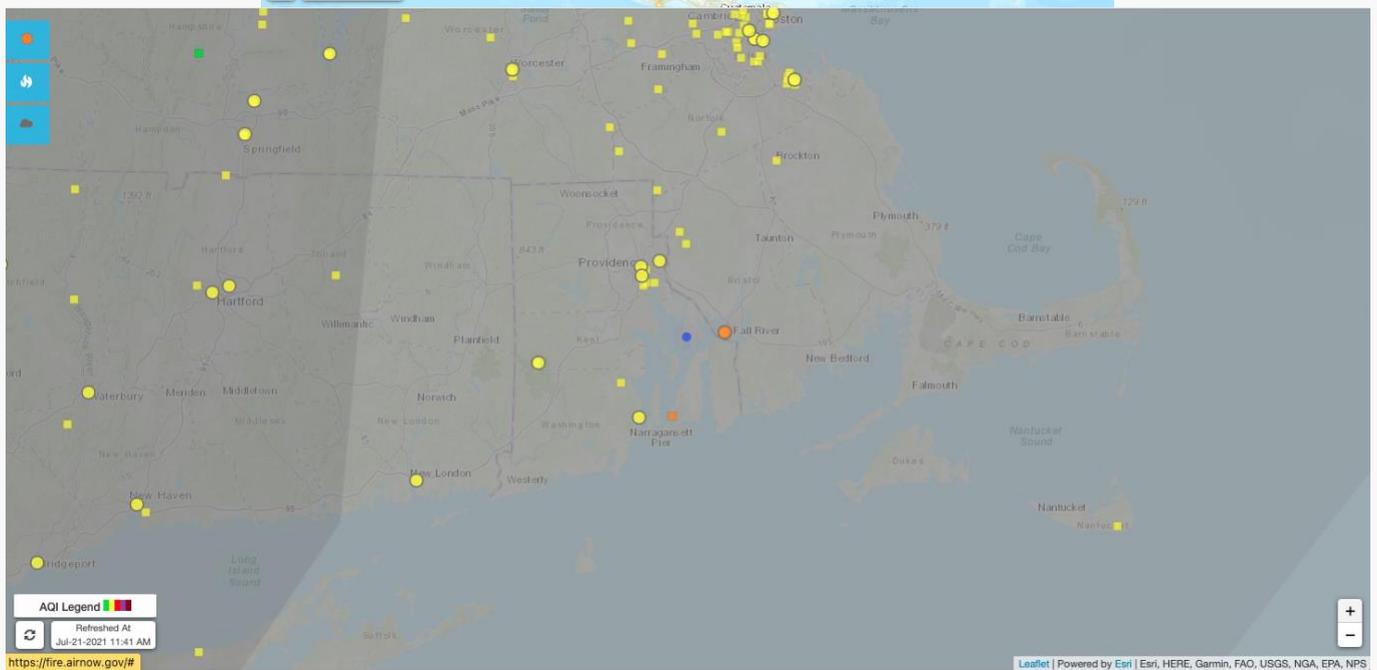
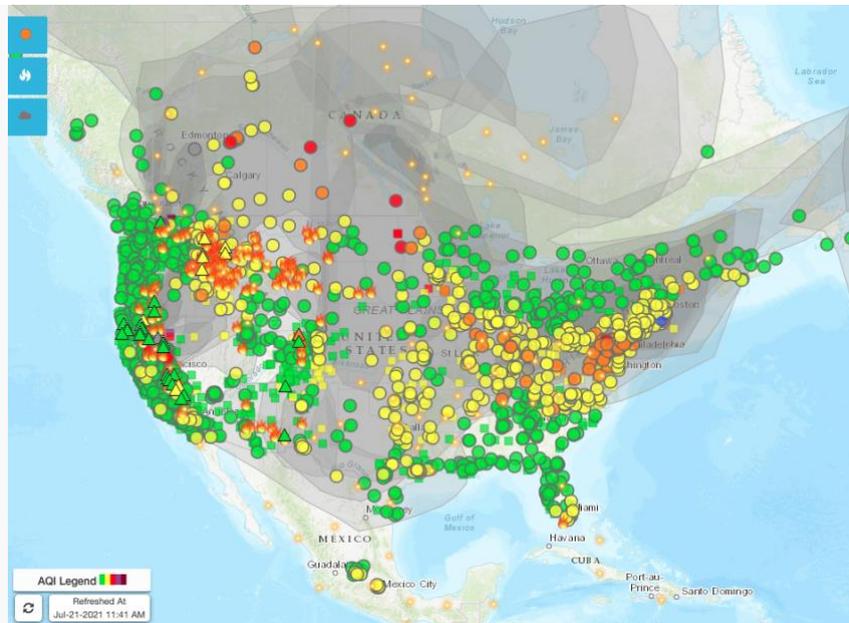


This morning at 9:15 AM I moved the Canāree and Sensirion outdoors. It detected a smoke event within minutes as all 3 PM values spiked with the majority being PM 1.0 and below.

This real-world example shows how Canāree detects wildfire smoke in real time, its intensity and size. The forecast is for the air to improve and clear throughout the day.



Coincidentally, two days ago, the EPA published this bulletin on [Wildfire Smoke and Indoor Air Quality](#). They recommend two steps; monitor the levels in your area using the Fire and Smoke Map from Airnow.gov and take steps to mitigate. Here is the Fire and Smoke Map for US and my area including that sensor in Fall River, the orange dot to the right of the blue one (me in Bristol).



Since the EPA stations are far apart, report every hour and the AQI is a 24-hour average you can't rely on it to help you know the local conditions. It's value is more of an early warning system. The AQI in Bristol was 158 and red 50 % higher than Fall River at 121 and orange. PM 1.0 is 46 ug (mass concentration, a measure of the weight of all the particles) with PM2.5 = 68 ug. So, 68 % is PM <1.0 which the EPA doesn't report (just < PM2.5 and 10). The recommended daily average value for PM 2.5 is 12.5 ug so we are breathing 4x with most of that PM 1.0!!! This is a serious health threat and Canãree reports more accurate, real-time updates that reflect your local conditions and can augment the EPA Fire and Smoke Maps.

What should I do? Should I mask up, get an air purifier? Stay indoors? EPA guidelines include:

- Close windows and doors
- Close fresh intake on A/C units
- Use a portable air cleaner with HEPA filters properly sized for the room in your home.
- If your home is too warm, try to stay with friends or relatives

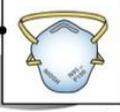
Hopefully they have a clean room 😊

**EPA Reduce health risks in areas with wildfire smoke:**

**Follow these tips, especially if someone in your family (including you!) has heart or breathing problems, is an older adult or child, or is pregnant.**

**DO**

- Stay inside
- Pay attention to local advisories and check air quality ([airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov))
- Set car A/C on recirculate (to keep smoke out)
- Keep a supply of medicine and non-perishable food
- Use a well-fitted N95 or P100 respirator if you go outside when it is smoky
- Prepare to evacuate if smoke levels get too high

**KEEP AIR CLEAN**

Close windows and doors. Close fresh intake on A/C units. If your home is too warm, try to stay with friends or relatives.	Use a portable air cleaner with HEPA filters properly sized for a specific room.
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**DON'T**

- X Play or exercise outdoors
- X Fry or broil foods, which can add particles to indoor air
- X Use a fireplace, gas logs or gas stove
- X Smoke indoors
- X Vacuum, it can stir up dust



[airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov)

Follow the guidelines but continue to monitor to determine their effectiveness. Canāree will help you see in real-time if these steps are working. Real world testing at our Mt. Shasta location during the Lava fire suggests a properly sized air purifier works quickly. What size? CADR is one key metric, [find out more here](#) or use the [CADR size calculator here](#). Just remember that **you'll need to monitor the purifier to see how well it's working and if the filters need replacing.**

In summary, Canāree is the only indoor AQM that can classify sources like vape, smoke, etc. It will monitor your indoor air quality and help you improve it cost effectively. Contact us at [www.pierasystems.com](http://www.pierasystems.com) to learn more.