

# Eiffel tower shrouded in smog as Paris pollution spikes

March 18 2015

---



The Eiffel Tower obscured by smog during a previous pollution alert on February 12, 2015

The Eiffel Tower disappeared behind a brown smog on Wednesday as Paris and much of northern France suffered a spike in pollution.

"The pollution levels are consistent. If we don't go over the alert level, we won't be far away," said Airparif, the body responsible for

monitoring [air quality](#) in the greater Paris region.

In Paris, authorities measure the concentration of particulates with a diameter of less than 10 microns—so-called PM10—in the air to determine pollution levels.

These particulates are created by vehicles, heating and heavy industry, and include the most dangerous particles that measure less than 2.5 microns in diameter, which can penetrate deep into the lungs and the blood system and can cause cancer.

The safe limit for PM10 is set at 80 microgrammes per cubic metre (mcg/m<sup>3</sup>).

Since Wednesday morning, authorities have put in place certain emergency measures, such as limiting cars to 20 kilometres per hour (14 miles per hours) on motorways in the Paris area.

Authorities have the power to put into place emergency measures such as allowing only one in two cars to enter the French capital and making public transport free.

This was last implemented on March 17 last year during a particularly bad spike in the [pollution levels](#).

According to a 2011 World Health Organisation report, the planet's most polluted city was Ahvaz in Iran with an average of 372 mcg/m<sup>3</sup>.

Beijing had an average of 121 mcg/m<sup>3</sup>, while Paris was measured at 38 mcg/m<sup>3</sup>.

© 2015 AFP

Citation: Eiffel tower shrouded in smog as Paris pollution spikes (2015, March 18) retrieved 9 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-03-eiffel-tower-shrouded-smog-paris.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.