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Air quality in Miri and Klang remains bad

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PETALING JAYA: The Air Pollutant Index (API) readings in Miri, Sarawak and in Klang, Selangor have slightly increased as the air quality remains in the hazardous and unhealthy levels.

According to the Department of Environment's API website, it showed that the API readings for Miri recorded a level of 396 as at 5pm yesterday.

In Johan Setia, Selangor, the API level recorded was at 127.

On Saturday, API levels in Miri and Johan Setia were at 391 and 117 respectively.

An API reading of between 0 and 50 is good, while 51 to 100 is moderate, 101 to 200 is unhealthy, 201 to 300 very unhealthy, and 301 and above is deemed hazardous.

Bernama reported that the Sarawak Fire and Rescue Department recorded 250 bushfires from Aug 1 to midday yesterday.

The department said in a statement that on average, they would receive 23 cases a day.

"Yesterday (Saturday), we recorded the highest number of bushfires with 58 cases," it said.

Although the department had advised the public not to carry out open burning, many still ignored the advice, the statement said.

In other areas such as Kuching, Samarahan, Bintulu and Sibu, the



Battling the heat: Firefighters working to put out a record number of bushfires in Sarawak.

air quality readings were still moderate between 71 and 96.

Similarly, in other parts of Selangor, such as in Klang (85), Banting (88), Shah Alam (87), API levels recorded were "moderate".

Other places nationwide such as Negri Sembilan, Perlis, Johor, Pahang, Perak, Penang, Kelantan and Terengganu also recorded

"moderate" API levels.

The only state which recorded a "good" API reading was Alor Setar with a level of 46.

According to updates from the Asean Specialised Meteorological Centre on Saturday, hotspots with localised smoke plumes were detected in Riau and Pulau Bangka, Sumatra and Sarawak.

"In West and Central Kalimantan, persistent hotspot clusters near Pontianak and Palangkaraya were observed to emit moderate to dense smoke haze.

"Prevailing winds to western Sarawak helped clear the air. There were also isolated hotspots with smoke plumes detected in various parts of Kalimantan," it said.