

Respiratory Protection Program for California Wildfire Smoke

*The Importance, Limitations, and Benefits of using a Respirator
When Exposed to Wildfire Smoke*

Respirators can be an effective way to protect employee health by reducing exposure to wildfire smoke when they are properly selected and worn. Respirator use can be beneficial even when the AQI for PM2.5 is less than 151, to provide additional protection.

When the current AQI for PM2.5 is 151 or greater, employers shall provide their workers with proper respirators for voluntary use. If the current AQI is greater than 500, respirator use is required.

The following precautions shall be taken:

- A respirator should be used properly and kept clean in a closed container when not in use.
- Employers shall select respirators certified for protection against the specific air contaminants at the workplace. NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention certifies respirators. A label or statement of certification should appear on the respirator or respirator packaging. It will list what the respirator is designed for (particulates, for example).
 - Surgical masks or items worn over the nose and mouth such as scarves, t-shirts, and bandannas will not protect against wildfire smoke. An N95 filtering facepiece respirator is the minimum level of protection for wildfire smoke.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions on the respirator's use, maintenance, cleaning, and care, along with any warnings regarding the respirator's limitations. The manufacturer's instructions for medical evaluations, fit testing, and shaving should also be followed, although doing so is not required by [Title 8, section 5141.1](#) for voluntary use of filtering facepiece respirators.
- Do not wear respirators in areas where the air contains contaminants for which the respirator is not designed. A respirator designed to filter particles will not protect employees against gases or vapors, and it will not supply oxygen.
- Employees should keep track of their respirators so that they do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.
- Employees who have a heart or lung problem should ask their doctor before using a respirator.

I have read the instructional statement above, understand the content and have had the opportunity to have my questions answered.

Employee Signature: _____

Date: _____

Check face seal and
tighten nose clip.

Place straps
against head.



The mask should feel snug
all around your face.

Shave facial hair.

By making loss control visit(s), evaluations and/ or recommendations, or providing safety materials, Berkshire Hathaway Homestate Companies and this Consultant have not and do not undertake or assume any duty to you or anyone else, including but not limited to: A) Identifying or reporting upon any hazard at your premises; B) Managing, controlling, or correcting any hazard; or C) Enforcing compliance with any local, state, or federal safety or health law. Our recommendations or safety materials may not address every possible loss potential, code violation, or exception to neither good practice nor will compliance with any submitted recommendations guarantee the fulfillment of your obligations as required by any local, state, or federal laws. Loss Control is your management's daily responsibility. You are urged to implement and maintain your safety and health management programs.

Please contact the Loss Control team at: losscontrol@bhhc.com for any further questions.