

# Wildfire Smoke Exposure

If the current AQI for PM2.5 is 151 or more and employees may be exposed to wildfire smoke, will implement the following EAP:

- Provide training to employees.
- ° Check the current AQI before and periodically during each shift.
- o Lower employee exposures.
- o Provide respirators and encourage their use.

## **Workers Training**

has provided training on a basis to employees who may be exposed to harmful wildfire smoke covering the following topics:

- The health effects of wildfire smoke.
- ° The right to obtain medical treatment without fear of reprisal.
- How employees can obtain the current AQI for PM2.5.
- The requirements in Cal/OSHA's regulation about wildfire smoke.
- o The employer's communication system.
- ° The employer's methods to protect employees from wildfire smoke.
- The importance, limitations, and benefits of using a respirator when exposed to wildfire smoke.
- How to properly put on, use, and maintain the respirators provided by the employer.

#### **Employer's Communication**

shall alert employees when the air quality is harmful and what protective measures are available to employees. shall encourage employees to inform their supervisors if they notice the air quality is getting worse, or if they are suffering from any symptoms due to the air quality, without fear of reprisal.

communication system includes:

## Monitor the Air Quality Index (AQI) for PM2.5

During a wildfire event, will monitor the air quality before the start a shift and will continue to monitor while employees are working. Workers must notify their supervisor if the air quality is worsening or if they begin to feel sick or have difficulty breathing.



The responsible person assigned to monitor the AQI for PM2.5 before each shift and when workers will be onsite is:

A government website shall be utilized for AQI for PM2.5: Other/Direct Reading:

AirNow

WFAQRP- AirFire Tools

CA Air Resources Board

EnviroFlash for daily and forecasted AQIs

transmitted by email or text

#### **Worker Protection Procedures**

shall take action to protect employees from PM2.5 when the current

AQI for PM2.5 is 151 or greater. Examples of protective methods include:

- Locating work in enclosed structures or vehicles where the air is filtered.
- Changing procedures such as moving workers to a place with a lower current AQI for PM2.5.
- Reducing work time in areas with unfiltered air.
- Increasing rest time and frequency, and providing a rest area with filtered air.
- Reducing the physical intensity of the work to help lower the breathing and heart rates.
- control system at this worksite is:

## **Respiratory Protection**

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.

All employees who may be exposed to harmful wildfire smoke shall complete the Voluntary Respiratory Protection Program: The Importance, Limitations, and Benefits of using a Respirator When Exposed to Wildfire Smoke.

by on a

basis.

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