

Wildfire Smoke Safety Checklist

This checklist will help assess your wildfire smoke preparedness and safety program. This is the first a series of resources which include a instructional guide, action plan, and respiratory protection.

Train Workers

- Have employees been trained on the health effects of wildfire smoke using the [Cal/OSHA Fact Sheet](#) or equivalent?
- Are employees aware of how to obtain medical treatment?
- Do employees know how to obtain the current AQI for PM2.5 and how to contact the employer regarding changing AQI?
- Has training been provided on the importance, limitations, and benefits of using a respirator including how to properly put it on, use, and maintain the respirator using the [BHHC Respiratory Protection Program](#) or equivalent.

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

- Have you determined how to monitor the AQI for PM2.5 (e.g. [airnow.gov](#), [CA Air Resources Board](#), local air pollution control or management districts, or direct reading)?
- Is a responsible person assigned to monitor the AQI in work zones with potential wildfire smoke at the start of each shift and periodically thereafter?

Communicate Wildfire Smoke Procedures

- Are employees informed and receive regular updates regarding the AQI for PM2.5 while working?
- Do employees know how to report symptoms of wildfire smoke exposure?
- Are employees aware of emergency action plan including the monitoring of AQI changes?
- Do employees know where N95 respirators are stored or how to initiate effective protective measures?
- Have you communicated your worker protection procedures?

Worker Protection Procedures

- Is a plan for reducing worker's exposure to wildfire smoke established?
- If your risk assessment indicates the AQI above 151 PM2.5 consider the following controls:
 - Move employees out of the exposure zone to eliminate the risk. This may involve shifting crews to an enclosed building or vehicle with filtered air or shifting crews to another work zone where the AQI is lower.
 - Adjust work schedules to limit the amount of work done outdoors in areas with poor air quality.
 - Providing PPE on a voluntary basis can help reduce exposures to wildfire smoke. This would trigger additional training requirements.
 - When AQI for PM2.5 is greater than 500, the employer must require employees to use respirators in accordance with [Title 8 section 5144](#).
- Is an emergency action plan available including local emergency numbers and an evacuation plan?

Air Quality Index (AQI) Category for PM2.5	Levels of Health Concern
0 to 50	Good
51 to 100	Moderate
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
151 to 200	Unhealthy
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy
301 to 500	Hazardous

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