

# School Districts

## Recommended Actions During Wildfire Smoke & Other Unhealthy Air Quality Events

### HOW TO USE THIS CHART:

**STEP 1:** Find the current local air quality conditions (AQI) at [fire.airnow.gov](http://fire.airnow.gov). To find forecasted air quality conditions go to [airquality.org](http://airquality.org).

**STEP 2:** Once you know the AQI nearest your school or outdoor event, use the table below to help you plan & make decisions during a wildfire smoke event or anytime the AQI increases.

ACTIVITY	Level 1 GOOD	Level 2 MODERATE	Level 3 UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	Level 4 UNHEALTHY	VERY UNHEALTHY (School closure may be considered <sup>2</sup> )	Level 6 HAZARDOUS (School closure may be considered <sup>2</sup> )
AQI	0-50	51-100	101-150	151-200	201-300	≥301
<b>Recess (15 min)</b>	No Restrictions	Ensure sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> are medically managing their condition	Sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> should exercise indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities Allow individuals who complain of difficulty breathing to play indoors	Exercise indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities Sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> or any individual who complains of difficulty breathing should remain indoors	No outdoor activity All activity should be moved indoors or discontinued	No outdoor activity All activity should be moved indoors or discontinued
<b>Physical Education Class (60 min)</b>	No Restrictions	Ensure sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> are medically managing their condition	Sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> should exercise indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities Make indoor space available for sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> Increase rest periods and substitutions to lower breathing rates	Exercise indoors or limit vigorous outdoor activity to maximum 15 minutes Sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> or any individual who complains of difficulty breathing should remain indoors	No outdoor activity All activity should be moved indoors or discontinued	No outdoor activity All activity should be moved indoors or discontinued
<b>Athletic Practice/ Scheduled Sporting Events</b>	No Restrictions	Ensure sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> are medically managing their condition	Ensure sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> are medically managing their condition Reduce vigorous exercise to 30 minutes per hour Increase rest periods and substitutions to lower breathing rates	Reduce vigorous exercise to 30 minutes per hour Increase rest periods and substitutions to lower breathing rates Sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> should remain indoors	Practice or event should be rescheduled, moved indoors or discontinued	Practice or event should be rescheduled, moved indoors or discontinued
<b>Scheduled Outdoor Events</b>	No Restrictions	Ensure sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> are medically managing their condition	Ensure sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> are medically managing their condition	Decrease duration of events exceeding 2 hours Consider rescheduling or relocating event	Event should be rescheduled, moved indoors or discontinued	Event should be rescheduled, moved indoors or discontinued

<sup>1</sup> Sensitive Individuals include anyone with asthma or other heart/lung conditions. Students with asthma should follow their asthma action plans and keep their quick-relief medicine handy.

<sup>2</sup> To meet waiver approval conditions due to emergency conditions ([Form J-13A](#)) from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, poor air quality must be shown to be caused by an emergency event such as a wildfire.

# Businesses

## Recommended Actions & Regulatory Requirements During Wildfire Smoke & Unhealthy Air Quality Events

### HOW TO USE THIS CHART:

**STEP 1:** Find the current local air quality conditions (AQI) at [fire.airnow.gov](http://fire.airnow.gov). To find forecasted air quality conditions go to [airquality.org](http://airquality.org).

**STEP 2:** Once you know the AQI nearest your business, use the table below to help you plan and make decisions during a wildfire smoke event. Please note, **BOLDED TEXT** denotes regulatory requirements; all other items are recommended actions. Refer to regulations for complete information.

ACTIVITY	Level 1 GOOD	Level 2 MODERATE	Level 3 UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	Level 4 UNHEALTHY	Level 5 VERY UNHEALTHY	Level 6 HAZARDOUS
AQI	0-50	51-100	101-150	151-200	201-300	≥301
Landscaping Activities	No additional recommended actions	No additional recommended actions	Limit leaf blower use (check local ordinances for use restrictions <sup>1</sup> ) Limit landscaping activities	Prohibit leaf blower use (check local ordinances for use restrictions <sup>1</sup> ) Discontinue all landscaping activities until AQI returns to Level 3 or less	Prohibit leaf blower use (check local ordinances for use restrictions <sup>1</sup> ) Discontinue all landscaping activities until AQI returns to Level 3 or less	Prohibit leaf blower use (check local ordinances for use restrictions <sup>1</sup> ) Discontinue all landscaping activities until AQI returns to Level 3 or less
Activities that create dust emissions	Prevent dust per Air District <a href="#">Rule 403</a>	Prevent dust per Air District <a href="#">Rule 403</a>	Prevent dust per Air District <a href="#">Rule 403</a>	Prevent dust per Air District <a href="#">Rule 403</a>	Discontinue all activities until AQI returns to Level 4 or less; at minimum prevent dust per Air District <a href="#">Rule 403</a>	Discontinue all activities until AQI returns to Level 4 or less; at minimum prevent dust per Air District <a href="#">Rule 403</a>
Outdoor Work Activities / Employee Safety	Establish wildfire communication plan <sup>2</sup> Train employees on Cal/OSHA Wildfire Smoke Standards <sup>2</sup>	Monitor AQI forecast to help plan work activities <sup>2</sup>	Monitor AQI forecast to help plan work activities <sup>2</sup> Provide air quality info to employees <sup>2</sup> Sensitive groups should consider wearing N95 masks	Reduce employee exposure to smoke <sup>2</sup> If exposure can't be reduced, provide N95 masks for voluntary use <sup>2</sup> Everyone should consider wearing N95 masks	Reduce employee exposure to smoke <sup>2</sup> If exposure can't be reduced, provide N95 masks for voluntary use <sup>2</sup> Everyone should consider wearing N95 masks	Reduce employee exposure to smoke <sup>2</sup> If exposure can't be reduced, provide N95 masks for voluntary use <sup>2</sup> Require employees wear N95 masks at AQI >500 <sup>2</sup>
Indoor Work <sup>3</sup> Activities / Employee Safety	No additional recommended actions	No additional recommended actions	Monitor AQI forecast to help plan work activities Provide air quality information to employees	Check nearby AQI levels at <a href="http://fire.airnow.gov">fire.airnow.gov</a> to determine work activities	Create cleaner air workspace or consider telework for employees	Create cleaner air workspace or consider telework for employees

<sup>1</sup> [City of Sacramento Code section 8.70](#); review ordinance for full requirements

<sup>2</sup> Cal/OSHA Regulation to protect employees from smoke during wildfire events ([§5141.1 Protection from Wildfire Smoke](#)); review regulation for full requirements. During certain health crises, N95 masks may be in short supply and/or reserved for healthcare personnel; follow state and local guidance on allowed alternatives for respiratory protective equipment.

<sup>3</sup> Information on indoor air quality can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/wildfires-and-indoor-air-quality-iaq>

# General Public

## \*DRAFT\* Recommended Actions During Wildfire Smoke & Other Unhealthy Air Quality Events

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**STEP 1:** Find the current local air quality conditions (AQI) at [fire.airnow.gov](http://fire.airnow.gov). To find forecasted air quality conditions go to [airquality.org](http://airquality.org).

**STEP 2:** Once you know the AQI nearest your location, use the table below to help you plan & make decisions during a wildfire smoke event or anytime the AQI increases.

ACTIVITY	Level 1 GOOD	Level 2 MODERATE	Level 3 UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	Level 4 UNHEALTHY	Level 5 VERY UNHEALTHY	Level 6 HAZARDOUS
AQI	0-50	51-100	101-150	151-200	201-300	≥301
<b>General Outdoor Activity</b>	No Suggested Actions	Sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> should be prepared to medically manage their condition Know where to go to get air quality information so you can plan your activities if conditions worsen	Sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> should stay indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities	Avoid vigorous outdoor activities Sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> or <b>any</b> individual having difficulty breathing should remain indoors	No outdoor activity All activity should be moved indoors or discontinued	No outdoor activity All activity should be moved indoors or discontinued
<b>Exercise</b>	No Suggested Actions	Sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> should be prepared to medically manage their condition Know where to go to get air quality information so you can plan your activities if conditions worsen	Sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> should exercise indoors or avoid vigorous exercise activities Increase rest periods and lower breathing rates Reduce vigorous exercise to 30 minutes per hour or less	Exercise indoors or limit vigorous exercise activity to maximum 15 minutes Sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> or <b>any</b> individual having difficulty breathing should remain indoors	No outdoor exercise All activity should be moved indoors or discontinued	No outdoor exercise All activity should be moved indoors or discontinued
<b>Indoor Air Quality</b>	No Suggested Actions	Sensitive individuals <sup>1</sup> should be prepared to medically manage their condition Understand and maintain HVAC system to reduce smoke indoors Install & keep high-efficiency filters on hand Consider purchasing a certified portable air cleaner <sup>2</sup> to help improve indoor air quality when needed	Sensitive individuals consider using a portable air cleaner to reduce indoor air pollution Don't use products that increase indoor air pollution (candles, cleaners, air fresheners) Reduce activities that create more dust (frying foods, vacuuming) Follow previous guidance under Level 2	Run HVAC system on recirculate mode to reduce smoke indoors Keep doors and windows closed Change dirty filters as needed Create a clean air space at home (use a certified portable air cleaner <sup>2</sup> or DIY air cleaner) Follow previous guidance under Levels 2-3	Follow previous guidance under Levels 2-4	Follow previous guidance under Levels 2-4
<b>N95 Mask Use</b>	No Suggested Actions	Keep N95 masks on hand in case air quality worsens and you must go outside	Sensitive individuals should consider using N95 masks only if you must go outside; other health conditions and breathing rates should be monitored	Use an N95 mask if you must go outside & monitor other health conditions and breathing rates	Use an N95 mask if you must go outside & monitor health conditions	Use an N95 mask if you must go outside & monitor health conditions

<sup>1</sup> Sensitive Individuals include anyone with asthma or other heart/lung conditions. Those with asthma should follow their asthma action plans and keep their quick-relief medicine handy.

<sup>2</sup> The California Air Resources Board certifies portable air cleaners. Before you purchase, check to make sure it is certified here: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/list-carb-certified-air-cleaning-devices>

# Public Agencies

## Recommended Actions & Regulatory Requirements During Wildfire Smoke & Unhealthy Air Quality Events

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**STEP 2:** Once you know the AQI nearest your location, use the table below to help you plan and make decisions during a wildfire smoke event. Please note, **BOLDDED TEXT** denotes regulatory requirements; all other items are recommended actions. Refer to regulations for complete information.

ACTIVITY	Level 1 GOOD	Level 2 MODERATE	Level 3 UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	Level 4 UNHEALTHY	Level 5 VERY UNHEALTHY	Level 6 HAZARDOUS
AQI	0-50	51-100	101-150	151-200	201-300	≥301
Landscaping Activities	No additional recommended actions	No additional recommended actions	Limit leaf blower use ( <b>check local ordinances for use restrictions</b> <sup>1</sup> ) Limit landscaping activities	Don't use leaf blowers ( <b>check local ordinances</b> ) <sup>1</sup> Discontinue all landscaping activities until AQI returns to Level 3 or less	Don't use leaf blowers ( <b>check local ordinances</b> ) <sup>1</sup> Discontinue all landscaping activities until AQI returns to Level 3 or less	Don't use leaf blowers ( <b>check local ordinances</b> ) <sup>1</sup> Discontinue all landscaping activities until AQI returns to Level 3 or less
Activities that create dust emissions	Prevent dust per Air District <a href="#">Rule 403</a>	Prevent dust per Air District <a href="#">Rule 403</a>	Prevent dust per Air District <a href="#">Rule 403</a>	Prevent dust per Air District <a href="#">Rule 403</a>	Discontinue all activities until AQI returns to Level 4 or less; at minimum <b>prevent dust per Air District <a href="#">Rule 403</a></b>	Discontinue all activities until AQI returns to Level 4 or less; at minimum <b>prevent dust per Air District <a href="#">Rule 403</a></b>
Outdoor Work Activities / Employee Safety	Establish wildfire communication plan <sup>2</sup> Train employees on Cal/OSHA Wildfire Smoke Standards <sup>2</sup>	Monitor AQI forecast to help plan work activities <sup>2</sup>	Monitor AQI forecast to plan work activities & public events <sup>2</sup> Provide air quality info to employees <sup>2</sup> Sensitive groups should consider wearing N95 masks	Reduce employee exposure to smoke <sup>2</sup> If exposure can't be reduced, provide N95 masks for voluntary use <sup>2</sup> Everyone should consider wearing N95 masks	Reduce employee exposure to smoke <sup>2</sup> If exposure can't be reduced, provide N95 masks for voluntary use <sup>2</sup> Everyone should consider wearing N95 masks	Reduce employee exposure to smoke <sup>2</sup> If exposure can't be reduced, provide N95 masks for voluntary use <sup>2</sup> <b>Require employees wear N95 masks at AQI &gt;500</b> <sup>2</sup>
Indoor Work <sup>3</sup> Activities / Employee Safety	No additional recommended actions	No additional recommended actions	Monitor AQI forecast to help plan work activities and public events Provide air quality information to employees	Check nearby AQI levels at <a href="http://fire.airnow.gov">fire.airnow.gov</a> to determine work activities and public events	Create cleaner air workspace or consider telework for employees	Create cleaner air workspace or consider telework for employees
Public Safety Messaging/ Cleaner Air Centers	No additional recommended actions	Monitor Air Quality	Activate Wildfire Smoke Action & Public Messaging Plan (when wildfire smoke creates 2 consecutive days PM 2.5 >100 AQI)	Consider opening cleaner air centers Consider issuing public health advisory/messages Consider cancelling outdoor public events	Publicize availability of cleaner air centers (if open) Discuss school closure potential, public health alert, event cancellation	Publicize availability of cleaner air centers (if open), public health alerts and any event cancellations

<sup>1</sup> [City of Sacramento Code section 8.70](#); review ordinance for full requirements

<sup>2</sup> Cal/OSHA Emergency Regulation to protect employees from smoke during wildfire events ([§5141.1 Protection from Wildfire Smoke](#)); review regulation for full requirements. During certain health crises, N95 masks may be in short supply and/or reserved for healthcare personnel; follow state and local guidance on allowed alternatives for respiratory protective equipment.

<sup>3</sup> Information on indoor air quality can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/wildfires-and-indoor-air-quality-iaq>