



Wildfire Smoke Exposure – Employer Checklist

The newly adopted regulation, §5141.1 “Protection from Wildfire Smoke,” uses the local air quality index (AQI) for PM2.5 to determine when worker protections are needed. If you are an employer and you reasonably anticipate that employees may be exposed to wildfire smoke, review the following action items.



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

- Have you determined how the AQI for PM2.5 will be monitored (via website, airnow.gov, or direct-reading)?
- It is a best practice to assign responsibility to monitor the AQI for PM2.5 before each shift and when workers will be onsite.



Train Workers

- Do workers know how to determine if the AQI is worsening due to wildfire smoke?
- Can workers identify health effects that may be the result of wildfire smoke exposure?
- Have you informed workers about the voluntary use of NIOSH-approved respirators and do you have a respirator distribution plan if the AQI for PM2.5 reaches 151 or higher?
- Have you trained workers to properly use a respirator and explained the limitations of the respirator?



Establish Worker Protection Procedures

- Have you created a plan for reducing worker exposure to wildfire smoke?
 - Provide enclosed structures or vehicles where air is filtered, if feasible.
 - Relocate the work, change schedules, reduce work intensity, or provide additional rest periods, where practicable.
- Do you know your local emergency services phone number?
- Consider creating an emergency evacuation plan.



Communicate Workplace Procedures

- Have you informed workers how they will receive updates regarding the AQI for PM2.5 while working?
- Do workers know that they are encouraged to report when they are experiencing symptoms of wildfire smoke exposure?
- Have you informed workers about your plan for reducing exposure during wildfire smoke events, which may include worksite procedures to relocate/reschedule work, reduce work intensity, and/or to take additional rest periods or seek medical attention if needed?

