

## Introduction

The Wildfire Smoke Protection Program provides guidance for employees working outdoors who are affected directly or indirectly by wildfire smoke. The program is intended to comply with Cal-OSHA 5141.1.

The program covers outdoor operations of employees in California only during wildfire events. For the purposes of this program, a wildfire event is defined as an uncontrolled fire that involves brush, crops, forests and other vegetation or adjacent developed areas, and results in potentially harmful air quality.

To measure air quality, an Air Quality Index (AQI) was developed to translate data collected from air pollutant monitoring stations into a scale. The AQI is a number that ranges from 0 to 500 that indicates how clean or polluted the air is, and what associated health effects might be of concern to diverse individuals within a population.

When a wildfire event occurs and the AQI is 150 or greater, with the particle mass (PM) 2.5, elements of this program should be implemented.

This program does not cover:

- Employees who normally work or have the capacity to work indoors or in vehicles that are properly secured with filtered air systems (i.e. closed windows, doors, etc.).
- Employees who work less than 1 hour total outdoors for their work shift.

## Responsibilities

### Production Safety Representative

The Production Safety Representative will introduce this Program to production, including any key department heads (construction, special effects, locations, etc.), and will explain best practices for implementation. In some cases the Studio may designate an alternate safety professional to assist production. Responsibilities include:

- Providing an up-to-date written Program to production.
- Working jointly with affected departments, as needed, in establishing reasonable guidelines to protect employees from wildfire smoke.
- Monitoring the program as needed and providing advice on specific program concerns.
- Provide resources to obtain N95 respirators for employee use when performing necessary outdoor work when the AQI is greater than 150.
- Making training resources and guidance regarding the safe use of issued N95 respirators.

### Department Heads / Supervisors (Management / Department Heads)

Management will oversee and coordinate the responsibilities of the Wildfire Smoke Program. Responsibilities include:

- Monitor relevant wildfire events.
- Monitor employee work tasks outdoors in observation of the wildfire event and its effect on the local AQI.
- Modify/relocate/limit outdoor work when the AQI is greater than 150.
- Ensure affected employees are trained in the standard.
- Retain training documentation.

### Employees

Employee responsibilities include:

- Reporting any adverse effects or symptoms of wildfire smoke exposure to their department head/supervisor or set medic (if available).
- If required, wear the provided N95 respirator to work outdoors during a relevant wildfire event.
- Follow the respirator manufacturer's instructions, especially donning and doffing procedures and limitations of use.

## Implementation

### Determine Air Quality Index (AQI)

Air pollution is a complex mixture of gases and small particles suspended in the air. The different health effects of air pollution are dependent on how much of the pollutant is in the air, how long a person is exposed, as well as the person's health conditions, age, and genetic background. The Air Quality Index (AQI) was developed to help translate data collected from air pollutant monitoring stations into a scale. The AQI is a number that ranges from 0 to 500 that indicates how clean or polluted the air is.

- In the instance of a wildfire event, the Air Quality Index for the target area zip code should be checked. This can be done using the EPA Website AIRNow at <https://airnow.gov> . Navigate to "AQI – Pollutant Details" for the appropriate value (see screenshots at the end of the Wildfire Smoke Protection Program).

**NOTE:** AIRNow has an App for iOS and Android. In addition, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has an App for Los Angeles and Orange County readings.

- Department Heads/Supervisors (or a designee of the production) should monitor the site at least once an hour. Depending on severity and employee proximity to the wildfire event, monitoring may be more frequent.
- If the value observed for PM 2.5 is 150 or below, no action is required (Note: Personal health and comfort issues may be addressed at the discretion of the management).
- If the value observed for PM 2.5 is at least 151, Production should proceed with implementation of exposure controls. Department Heads/Supervisors or a designee should continue monitoring the AQI for the duration of employees' shifts.

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

## Implement Exposure Controls (AQI Above 150)

### *Outdoor Work*

Where possible, management should limit employee outdoor work during the duration of the wildfire event and relative AQI value. Some examples include but are not exclusive to: relocating indoors and postponing work until conditions improve.

### *Respirators (N95)*

Employees whose work is predominantly performed outdoors and not compatible to other exposure controls should be issued an N95 respirator, also known as a filtering facepiece respirator. The N95 is designed to protect against particulate matter such as dust, fumes, mists, aerosols, and smoke.

- Respirators may be obtained from most safety supply vendors. Contact your Production Safety Representative for assistance. Basic information and instruction must also be provided to crew members when providing a respirator (see *Protection from Wildfire Smoke Information* found in Part B – Forms & Checklists).

NOTE: Respirators provided within the limits of this program are not covered by the requirements of the Respirator Protection (Cal-OSHA Title 8 5144).

## Training

Employees covered by the program will receive basic training (see *Protection from Wildfire Smoke Information* found in Part B) which includes:

- Health effects of wildfire smoke.
- The right to medical treatment from wildfire smoke exposure.
- How to obtain the Air Quality Index (AQI).
- N95 respirator use and limitation.

## Recordkeeping

Training records and supplemental material will be maintained by management.

## Resource Screenshots

See following pages.

**Local Air Quality Conditions**  
Zip Code: Zip Code Go State: Alabama Go

**Current AQI (Combined PM and O<sub>3</sub>)**  
Friday, October 25, 2019 4:00 PM EDT

**Fires: Current Conditions**  
[Click to see map](#)  
[Wildfire Guide and Factsheets](#)

**Air Quality Basics**  
[Air Quality Index](#) | [Ozone](#) | [Particle Pollution](#) | [Smoke from fires](#) | [What You Can Do](#)

**Health**  
**Learning Center**

Enter Zip Code for work location

**Local Air Quality Conditions**  
Zip Code: Zip Code Go State: California Go

**Current AQI (Combined PM and O<sub>3</sub>)**  
Friday, October 25, 2019 1:00 PM PDT

**Current Conditions**  
**Air Quality Index (AQI)**  
observed at 13:00 PDT  
**40 Good**

**AQI - Pollutant Details**

Ozone	40	Good
Particles (PM2.5)	31	Good

**Air Quality Forecast**


Today	Tomorrow
<b>Air Quality Index (AQI)</b> 45 <b>Good</b>	<b>Air Quality Index (AQI)</b> 77 <b>Moderate</b>
<b>Health Message:</b> None	<b>Health Message:</b> Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors.

**AQI - Pollutant Details**

Carbon Monoxide	9	Good
Carbon Monoxide	6	Good

Good Moderate USG Unhealthy Very Unhealthy Hazardous Action Day


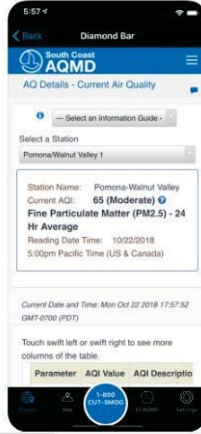
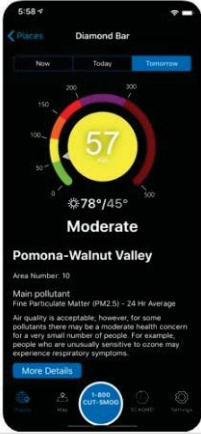

### App Store Preview



**South Coast AQMD** 4.9  
Air Quality  
South Coast Air Quality Management District  
★★★★★ 4.9, 37 Ratings  
Free

### Screenshots

iPhone iPad Apple Watch



### EPA's AIRNow

US Environmental Protection Agency Health & Fitness ★★★★★ 145  
Everyone

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