

Wildfire Smoke Air Pollution Emergency Plan Fact Sheet

September 2022

AB 661 Background

In October 2019, Assembly Bill 661 (K. McCarty) was signed into California law. This legislation mandated the Sac Metro Air District develop a Wildfire Smoke Air Pollution Emergency Plan in collaboration with the Sacramento County Health Officer and in consultation with other agencies and stakeholders.

Plan Elements

The Sac Metro Air District's *Wildfire Smoke Air Pollution Emergency Plan* addresses the following four elements:

- **Health Protective Recommendations and Guidelines:** Provides recommendations and guidelines for school districts, public agencies, businesses, and the general public on how to prepare for and what to do during a wildfire smoke event. This section also provides guidance on when and how to use a mask during wildfire smoke events.
- **Responsible Agencies & Respective Actions:** Identifies local agencies involved in wildfire response and outlines the responsibilities of each agency. This section also identifies how and what information is disseminated by which agencies and who is responsible for taking certain actions.
- **Recommendations & Best Practices for Businesses and Public Agencies:** Provides best practices for private businesses and public agencies to protect indoor and outdoor employees during a wildfire smoke event as well as reduce or modify certain activities that can contribute to worsening air pollution.
- **Strategies for Vulnerable Populations:** Provides specific strategies for public agencies to take to help vulnerable populations including school-age children, the elderly, people experiencing homelessness, and people with health conditions made worse by wildfire smoke. This section also outlines the challenges public agencies experience when trying to provide services to vulnerable populations and outlines recommendations that could make it easier to provide services during smoke events.



New Tools & Resources

Check out our [Wildfire Smoke Information page](#) to track air quality impacts from wildfires using the [EPA AirNow Fire & Smoke Map](#), get a summary of current smoke conditions for Sacramento County, and access a variety of new tools and resources you can use to protect your health.

The chart is titled "RECOMMENDED ACTIONS DURING WILDFIRE SMOKE AND OTHER UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY EVENTS" and is for the "GENERAL PUBLIC". It is organized into two main steps: "STEP 1: Know the current level of air quality conditions (AQI) at your location" and "STEP 2: Check your health for AQI-related symptoms, and the table below to help you plan your activities during a wildfire smoke event." The chart is divided into four rows based on AQI levels: "AQI 0-50", "AQI 51-100", "AQI 101-150", and "AQI 151-200". Each row has columns for "GENERAL OUTDOOR ACTIVITY", "INDOOR AIR QUALITY", and "HEALTHY USE". The chart provides specific recommendations for each activity and AQI level, such as "Avoid strenuous outdoor activities" for AQI 101-150 and "Avoid outdoor activities" for AQI 151-200. The chart also includes a small image of people in the top right corner.

- Air Quality Action Charts:** These new charts can be used by schools, businesses, public agencies, and the general public to help each audience plan ahead and make decisions during a wildfire smoke event. The charts provide recommendations for specific activities based on each level of the Air Quality Index (AQI). Find the Air Quality Action Charts [here](#).
- Just for Schools:** In addition to the new Air Quality Action Chart for Schools, we’ve created other tools to help school communities prepare and respond to wildfire smoke events. Our Quick Reference Contact Guide provides links and contact information to help guide decision making. A new video titled, “[Wildfire Smoke: A Guide for Schools](#),” helps educate school personnel and can be shared with parents, students, and other school community members. The video is available in English, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Hmong. Find these additional school resources [here](#).
- Partner Toolkit:** Partner agencies are encouraged to use our toolkit to help share information about wildfire smoke and health impacts. The toolkit includes email/newsletter templates, sample social media posts, and graphics. Find the toolkit [here](#).

Plan Development Partners

- Sac Metro Air District
- Sacramento County Public Health
- Sacramento County Office of Education
- Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services and emergency personnel
- Local non-profit organizations and businesses
- School and city personnel from cities of:
 - Citrus Heights
 - Elk Grove
 - Folsom
 - Galt
 - Isleton
 - Rancho Cordova
 - Sacramento

Future Wildfire Smoke Events

The Sac Metro Air District’s *Wildfire Smoke Air Pollution Emergency Plan*, its new tools and resources, and a new level of coordination among local responding jurisdictions and agencies ensures that our region is better prepared to respond quickly and protect public health more effectively during future wildfire smoke events.