

# TOOLBOX SAFETY TALK

## LIST TASKS AT YOUR WORKSITE THAT COULD EXPOSE WORKERS TO WILDFIRE SMOKE:

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## EXPLAIN THE DANGER: WILDFIRE SMOKE FACTS

Wildfire smoke contains microscopic soot particles, related compounds, and gases. These may pose a hazard to workers because they can be inhaled deep into the lungs, as well as irritating a worker's eyes, nose, and throat.

Symptoms of wildfire smoke exposure include:

- Coughing
- Wheezing or difficulty breathing
- Chest pains
- Headache and dizziness
- Sore and watery eyes
- Nose, throat, and sinus irritation

Workers in the following categories may be at a higher risk of illness caused by exposure to wildfire smoke:

- Pregnant or elderly workers
- Outdoor worksite
- Smokers
- Workers with a pre-existing heart or lung condition

## REDUCE EXPOSURE TO WILDFIRE SMOKE

### Assess and Discuss:

- Monitor the air quality in your region.
- Follow outdoor activity recommendations by Environmental Health.
- Review hazards and risks related to wildfire smoke as conditions change.
- Wear the Personal Protective Equipment identified in the hazard assessment.
- Monitor for severe adverse effects. If an incident occurs, report it to your supervisor and follow up as needed.

## IDENTIFY CONTROLS

- Can you **eliminate** or defer a job or task that exposes a worker to wildfire smoke?
- Can you **substitute** outdoor work for indoor work or for less physically demanding tasks?
- Can you use **engineering controls** such as:
  - Using room air cleaners such as HEPA filters.
  - Putting air conditioners on “recirculate” instead of bringing in outside air.
- Can you implement **administrative controls**, such as:
  - Limit outdoor work or create an outdoor work schedule.
  - Review safe job procedures to account for wildfire smoke exposure.
- Do you need **personal protective equipment** such as fit-tested respirators?

See: OHS Regulations – Sections 21, 70, 71, 89, 90, 91, 92, Mine Health and Safety Regulations – Section 8.04