

WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY: WILDFIRE SMOKE

WHO IS AT RISK

Workers who are outdoors, in enclosed structures, or in vehicles that do not have air filtration systems are at higher risk of being exposed to wildfire smoke, which pollutes workplaces.

WILDFIRE SMOKE IS DANGEROUS

Wildfires can burn many things in their path (vegetation, buildings, vehicles, chemicals, etc.), creating smoke that contains gases and tiny particles known as Particulate Matter (PM). You can't see PM, but it is hazardous and can be inhaled deep into the lungs, enter the bloodstream, and circulate throughout the body.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

A way to protect yourself when wildfire smoke is present is to reduce exposure to the smoke, limiting the amount of smoke you inhale.

**LABOR CODE 6310
PROTECTS WORKERS
FROM RETALIATION FOR
REPORTING WORKPLACE
HEALTH AND SAFETY
CONCERNS TO
CAL/OSHA:
1 (833) 579-0927**



YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO

- Wear NIOSH-approved N95 respirators provided free of charge by employers (Bandanas, cloth face coverings or surgical masks do not provide adequate protection from the PM found in wildfire smoke)
- Check or ask for the Air Quality Index (AQI) during each shift
- Get work moved to indoor spaces with air filtration & use vehicles equipped with air filtration, if practical
- Have work schedules changed, lower work intensity, and more rest periods
- Refuse work that is unsafe or hazardous to you or coworkers (Labor Code 6311)
- Obtain medical treatment
- Be trained about the health effects of wildfire smoke

WILDFIRE SMOKE EXPOSURE SYMPTOMS

- Burning or irritated eyes nose, or throat
- Chest pain
- Heart failure
- Asthma attacks
- Irregular heartbeat
- Chronic bronchitis
- Difficulty breathing
- Reduced lung function
- Headaches or dizziness
- Cough, phlegm, wheezing

Adults over 65 years of age, children, and individuals with pre-existing health conditions are at higher risk of negative health impacts from exposure to wildfire smoke.



For more information, please visit :



<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/safety/wildfire-smoke.htm>



<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Worker-Health-and-Safety-in-Wildfire-Regions.html>



<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/wildfire/>