



WILDFIRE PREVENTION GUIDELINES

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Operating in California, Nevada, and Arizona

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Purpose

These guidelines are to limit worker exposure to wildfire air contamination. While air contamination from wildfires is not a common occurrence, the reality is that smoke from wildfires contains chemicals, gases and fine particles that can harm worker health. These guidelines also provide directions on respiratory hazards for outdoor employee(s) who work in locations where wildfire smoke can travel.

Since services offered by A. J. Padelford & Son, Inc. can occur during such events, workers' health may be put at risk if no action is taken. The greatest hazard comes from breathing fine particles in the air which can reduce lung function, worsen asthma and other existing heart and lung conditions, and cause coughing, wheezing and difficulty breathing. Communication of the hazard to affected employees is required.

Exemptions

- Enclosed building operations with filtered mechanical ventilation.
- Enclosed vehicles with internal filtration.
- Where we can demonstrate that the concentration of particulate matter of PM2.5 does not exceed a concentration that corresponds to a current Air Quality Index (AQI) of 151 or greater.
- Employee(s) exposed to a current PM2.5 of an AQI of 151 or greater that is measured at the workplace for one hour or less during a shift.

Definitions

- Current AQI or Air Quality Index: Method used by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for air quality on a real-time basis. Also referred to as the "NowCast."
- PM2.5: Solid particles and liquid droplets suspended in air, known as particulate matter, with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 micrometers (microns) or smaller.

Procedure

When our employee(s) are dispatched to work outdoors where the air is affected by wildfire smoke, it is our supervisors and/or safety officers' duty to employees to determine if the outdoor air is a "harmful exposure" to them.

Employee(s) shall be notified that exposure is harmful when the pollution or contaminants in the air cause (or are likely to cause) injury, illness, disease, impairment, or loss of function. Shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, frequent coughing, and severe eye and throat irritation are signs of impairment or loss of function. Particulate matter can also cause more serious problems such as reduced lung function, bronchitis, worsening of asthma, heart failure, and early death.

The following factors should also be considered when determining if the outdoor air is harmful:

- How long employee(s) are outside and level of physical exertion.
- Symptoms consistent with exposure to wildfire smoke, such as those listed above.
- Pre-existing medical conditions and employee(s) over the age of 65.
- The smallest and usually the most harmful particulate matter is called PM2.5 because it has a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or smaller.

Postpone the Work

If work must proceed during such fire events, then an assessment of the air quality must be made to determine if levels of air quality are at 151 or greater and there is a reasonable possibility that employees will be exposed to wildfire smoke. In such cases, we will take the following steps:

- The first action that should be considered is to reschedule the task if possible. During events of short duration, air quality can recover quickly. Waiting for air quality to improve is no different than losing scheduled days of work to other natural causes such as rain or other calamities.
- Identify harmful exposure to airborne particulate matter from wildfire smoke at the start of each shift and periodically thereafter by checking the AQI for PM 2.5 in regions where employee(s) are located.
- Reduce harmful exposure to wildfire smoke if feasible, for example, by relocating work to an enclosed building with filtered air or to an outdoor location where the AQI for PM2.5 is 150 or lower.
- We advise employee(s) of the current AQI for PM2.5.
- We advise employee(s) of what they can do to protect themselves and encourage them to notify Brett Padelford, or their superintendent immediately if conditions worsen.

If we cannot reduce employee' harmful exposure to wildfire smoke so that when the AQI for PM 2.5 is 150 or lower, the company shall provide:

- Respirators such as N95 masks to all employee(s) for voluntary use (see our Respiratory Protection Program).
- Training on the new regulation, the health effects of wildfire smoke, and the safe use and maintenance of respirators.
- Local air quality districts provide information on outdoor air that can assist employers in determining if the outside air is harmful to employee(s). Employers should pay special attention when the outdoor air quality for airborne particles is "Unhealthy," "Very Unhealthy," or "Hazardous." The outdoor air quality is posted at the U.S. EPA website <https://www.airnow.gov/>.

Training

If on site monitoring is used, the person supervising, directing, or evaluating workplace monitoring for PM2.5 shall have the training and / or experience necessary to apply this section and to ensure the correct use of the monitor and the interpretation of the results so that exposures are not underestimated. The following chart can be used to convert PM2.5 to AQI.

PM2.5 in Micrograms per Cubic Meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Air Quality Index (AQI) Categories for PM2.5
0 to 12.0	0 to 50
12.1 to 35.4	51 to 100
35.5 to 55.4	101 to 150
55.5 to 150.4	151 to 200
150.5 to 250.4	201 to 300
250.5 to 500.4	500

Air Quality

The following chart explains the levels of air quality.

AQIB Category	Color	Numerical Value	Health Concerns
Good	Green	0-50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate	Yellow	51-100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a few people unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange	101-150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	Red	151-200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	Purple	201-300	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.
Hazardous	Maroon	>300	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.

All affected employees will be advised on this procedure and specifically of:

- The hazards of breathing wildfire smoke
- The right to obtain medical treatment without fear of reprisal
- How anyone can obtain the current AQI for PM2.5 using the links supplied

If employees have questions or concerns, they are to contact Brett Padelford or their superintendent immediately.