



PPS Protection from Wildfire Smoke Plan

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The purpose of this plan is to protect Portland Public School District (PPS) staff from wildfire smoke and comply with Oregon OSHA's Protection from Wildfire Smoke rule [OAR 437-002-1081](#) which became effective July 01, 2022. This standard applies whenever an employee performs outdoor work activities when the Air Quality Index (AQI) is at or above 101.

In work environments where there is a risk of environmental hazards such as wildfire smoke, we must exercise greater caution and employ greater protective measures as needed to protect our employees.

Employees can exercise their rights under this standard without fear of retaliation. This includes reporting health issues and obtaining medical treatment for suspected wildfire smoke exposure.

A copy of this plan shall be made publicly available to all employees on the PPS website.

This policy will apply when it is expected that our employees may be exposed to wildfire smoke where the ambient air concentration for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) is at or above 35.5 µg/m3 (Air Quality Index value of 101 for PM2.5)

This policy does not apply to the following:

Enclosed buildings where windows, doors, and other openings are kept closed and the air is filtered by mechanical ventilation.

Enclosed vehicles where windows, doors, and other openings are kept closed and the air is filtered by a cabin air filter.

Where worksite measurements of PM2.5 show that the current AQI does not equal or exceed 101; or that operations will be suspended when air quality reaches that concentration.

Employees working at home.

PPS's Protection from Wildfire Smoke (OAR 437-002-1081) compliant _____ can be found on PPS's internal training system, PepperPD. Staff training compliance is tracked through PepperPD.

How PPS will communicate harmful AQI and protective measures available

How employees should inform PPS of worsening air quality or if they are experiencing any symptoms due to the air quality.

The methods that will be used to protect employees from wildfire smoke

Air quality is described using the US EPA's Air Quality Index (AQI) – the higher the number, the more polluted and hazardous the air. The current AQI is divided into the six categories shown in Table 1 below. Small particulates, known as PM2.5, pose the greatest health hazard because they can be inhaled deep into the lungs. Therefore, PM2.5 is the pollutant to monitor when working outdoors during wildfire activity.

0 to 50	Good
51 to 100	Moderate
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
151 to 200	Unhealthy
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy
301 to 500	Hazardous

Table 1 – AQI Categories, Title 40 of Federal Regulations, Part 58, Appendix G

PPS will monitor air quality throughout the workday to determine the potential of employee exposure to hazardous air quality levels by one or more of the following methods:

- Check AQI forecasts and current AQI for PM2.5 by consulting the following online resources: [Oregon DEQ](#), [US EPA AirNow](#), [US Forest Service Wildland Air Quality Response Program](#), local air pollution control district, or local air quality management district.
- Obtain AQI forecasts and current AQI for PM2.5 directly from the EPA, local air pollution control district, or local air quality management district by phone, email, text, or other effective method.
- Measure AQI manually onsite while work is being conducted.

All employees should additionally download the Air Quality App [OregonAir](#) on their mobile device for real-time air particulate (AQI) information. Downloadable at: [Apple App Store](#), [Google Play](#)

Changing work schedules,
Lowering work intensity to reduce

Oregon OSHA's Protection from Wildfire Smoke rule [OAR 437-002-1081](#) requires NIOSH-approved filtering facepiece respirators to be made accessible to employees for voluntary use when workplace ambient air concentration of fine air particulates (PM2.5) is at or above 35.5 µg/m³ (AQI 101). PPS approved N95's (not KN95's) may be procured for free through your site's custodian before wildfire smoke exposure.

Voluntary use under this rule does not approve or cover usage of any other kind of filtering facepiece respirator beyond PPS and NIOSH-approved N95's, nor does it apply to situations where workers use filtering facepiece respirators for protection against air contaminants other than PM2.5 from wildfire smoke.

Employees who are required for their position to wear filtering facepiece respirators to protect against respiratory hazards outside of wildfire smoke conditions must instead follow PPS's Respiratory Protection Plan. Medical clearance, fit testing, and approval from PPS Environmental Health and Safety is *required* when wearing respirators more restrictive than NIOSH N95's.

See [Resources](#) for OSHA's Voluntary Use statement- Appendix D.

Filtering facepiece respirators are disposable, negative-pressure, air purifying respirators where the facepiece is partially or wholly made of air contaminant filtering material. When worn correctly, NIOSH-approved filtering facepiece respirators may provide some protection from wildfire smoke by filtering out fine particulates.

Filtering facepiece respirator usage may expose the wearer to serious injury or illness. Due to this risk, voluntary usage of filtering facepiece respirators is *strictly restricted* to the prevention of wildfire smoke exposure in AQI 101 environments; and only when such use would not expose the wearer to hazards associated with a substantially more serious injury or illness than the potential acute health effects of wildfire smoke exposure. Please consult your doctor before using a filtering facepiece respirator under voluntary use.

Respirator use in excessive heat and/or hard physical activity may increase the risk of heat exhaustion and/or heat stroke. Take breaks often and drink plenty of water

Respirator use in excessive heat or hard physical activity may increase risk of heat-related illnesses such as heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Symptoms may include difficulty breathing or dizziness. Illnesses such as heart or lung disease may also *only* increase risk of injury working under these conditions. When wearing a filtering facepiece respirator, take breaks often and drink water.

If symptoms occur while wearing a respirator;
Remove the respirator.
Notify your supervisor.
Find shade or a cooler environment.

Employees must review all information provided regarding filtering facepiece respirator use, care, and limitations before voluntarily wearing a filtering facepiece respirator under wildfire smoke AQI 101 conditions.

often
Putting on a ~~an~~ filtering facepiece respirator

Donning a Respirator:

Facial hair can prevent filtering facepiece respirators from creating a tight seal to properly filter particulates. Tight seals are made by shaving facial hair so that all sides of the respirator make contact with skin.

Unopened N95 filtering facepiece respirators will be stored unbent in their box or plastic wrapping, in a clean,

Rule:

<https://osha.oregon.gov/OSHARules/adopted/2022/ao4-2022-text-smoke-exposure.pdf>

1910.134 Appendix D - Mandatory Information for Employees Using Respirators When not Required Under the Standard:

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.134AppD>

Training: