Washington Guide for Public Health Actions for Wildfire Smoke

This guide is designed for air quality, public health, and other officials making local decisions.

Washington State Department of HEALTH

Air Quality Index: PM2.5	Recommended Public Health Actions Check current and forecasted air quality at wasmoke.blogspot.com
Good (0-50)	**Prior to wildfire season:** • Coordinate a local plan for public health actions and distribute preparedness information to the public. • Identify indoor spaces where individuals will seek cleaner air during wildfire smoke events and develop plans to protect indoor air quality, including filtration. » Indoor spaces used by sensitive groups, such as schools, child care facilities, and long-term care facilities. » Community cleaner air settings, such as libraries. » Temporary cleaner air shelters. **During wildfire season:** • Monitor wildfires, smoke forecasts, and air quality at WA Smoke Blog. • If forecasts predict smoke in your area, review the Washington Wildfire Response document for Severe Smoke Episodes and the Wildfire Smoke Guide for Public Health Officials.
Moderate (51-100)	**Above recommendations, plus:** • Distribute health information to the public, including steps to take with health advisory categories: Washington Air Quality Guide for Particle Pollution. » Refer to the WA Smoke Blog for information about wildfires, smoke forecasts, and air quality. » Identify and focus outreach efforts for sensitive groups. • Coordinate with public health partners to follow recommended public health actions. • Recommend following the Washington Children and Youth Activities Guide for Air Quality. • For outdoor workers, start following WA Department of Labor and Industries' requirements.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150)	**Above recommendations, plus:** • Recommend sensitive groups take steps to reduce exposure (limit time outside, avoid strenuous outdoor activity, and follow tips for cleaner indoor air). • Recommend sensitive groups spend time in a cleaner air setting in the community, such as a library, if they cannot maintain cleaner air at home. • Cancel children's outdoor athletic events and practices or move them to an area with safe air quality, either indoors or at a different outside location: Washington Children and Youth Activities Guide for Air Quality. • For an extended duration of smoke, consider opening a cleaner air shelter for sensitive groups.

Air Quality Index: PM2.5	Recommended Public Health Actions Check current and forecasted air quality at wasmoke.blogspot.com
Unhealthy (151-200)	**Above recommendations, plus:** • Recommend everyone take steps to reduce exposure (limit time outside, avoid strenuous outdoor activity, and follow tips for cleaner indoor air). • Recommend everyone spend time in an identified cleaner air setting in the community, such as a library, if they cannot maintain cleaner air in their residence. • Consider canceling outdoor public events and activities: Wildfire Smoke Guidance for Canceling Outdoor Events or Activities and Closing Schools. • For an extended duration of smoke, consider opening a cleaner air shelter for the public.
Very Unhealthy (201-300)	**Above recommendations, plus:** • Strongly recommend everyone take steps to reduce exposure (stay inside and filter indoor air to keep it cleaner; go elsewhere for cleaner air if needed and possible). • Cancel outdoor public events and activities: Wildfire Smoke Guidance for Canceling Outdoor Events or Activities and Closing Schools. • If school is in session, discuss school closure with administrators if indoor air cannot be kept lower than $PM_{2.5}$ 125.5 µg/m³ (AQI value of 201): Wildfire Smoke Guidance for Canceling Outdoor Events or Activities and Closing Schools. • Distribute NIOSH-approved particulate respirators, such as N95 masks, as available, for limited use outside. Include training material for proper fit and use. • For an extended duration of smoke, consider recommending that sensitive groups voluntarily relocate to an unimpacted area.
Hazardous (>300)	**Above recommendations, plus:** • For an extended duration of smoke, consider recommending that everyone voluntarily relocate to an unimpacted area.