

WILDFIRE SMOKE PROTECTION

Supervisor Checklist

The checklist below and the attached informational materials have been developed to assist supervisors in communicating, monitoring, and documenting the hazards associated with employee exposure to wildfire smoke.

- Conduct tailgate safety meeting to communicate the hazards of wildfire smoke. The following information must be communicated.
 - The health effects of wildfire smoke.
 - How employees can obtain the current Air Quality Index (AQI) for Particulate Matter 2.5 micrometers or smaller (PM2.5)
 - Review Cal/OSHA's regulation about wildfire smoke, as described in the California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5141.1.
 - Caltrans' methods to protect employees from wildfire smoke.
 - The importance, limitations, and benefits of using a respirator when exposed to wildfire smoke.
 - Encourage employees to inform their supervisor if they notice air quality is getting worse or if they suffer from any symptoms due to air quality without fear of reprisal.

Use the handout entitled *Protect Yourself from Wildfire Smoke* as your guide to communicate this vital information.

- Document instruction and attendance using Safety Meeting Report form [PM-S-0110](#).
- Make sure you have enough N95 (or higher) respirators for all workers who will be exposed to wildfire smoke. Carry replacements as needed to replace any respirators damaged or rendered ineffective during work activities.
- When arriving at the work site, check the current AQI for PM2.5. To obtain a reading, visit www.airnow.gov on your smart phone and enter the zip code where you are working. If cellular service is not available, use your radio and contact your District's Traffic Management Center to obtain the current AQI for PM2.5 for your assigned work area.
- Document the AQI for PM2.5 for your work area using the *Monitoring Log for Wildfire Smoke Protection*. Begin by documenting your work location and the location of the nearest hospital or clinic in the event of an emergency. After your initial reading, check and record the AQI for PM2.5 at least every two hours. Note times when the AQI for PM2.5 exceeds 151 and voluntary protection is offered. Note time that AQI for PM2.5 exceeds 500 and respiratory protection is **mandatory**.
- When the AQI for PM2.5 is 151 or higher, do one or more of the following steps.
 - Move to locations where the AQI for PM2.5 is less than 151.
 - Reduce physical intensity of work.
 - Offer all affected workers N95 (or higher) respiratory protective equipment for voluntary use.
- When the AQI for PM2.5 is 500 or more, respiratory protection is **mandatory**.