Effective July 29, 2019, Cal/OSHA has approved an emergency regulation that requires employers to use the Air Quality Index (AQI) for PM2.5 to determine the type of respiratory protection to provide employees when there is a risk of them being exposed to wildfire smoke while they are working.

Emergency Regulation: California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5141.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AQI for PM2.5</th>
<th>Levels of Health Concern</th>
<th>Respiratory Precautions for Employees Working in Affected Area(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 50</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>None Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 - 100</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 101 - 150 | Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups | Everyone working in the area shall:  
  • immediately take action to reduce their exposure.  
  Supervisors shall also:  
  • ensure there are enough NIOSH N95 (or higher) respirators available for all employees to wear voluntarily.  
  • ensure all employees have been trained according to 5141.1, Appendix B |
| 151 - 200 | Unhealthy               |                                                               |
| 201 - 300 | Very Unhealthy          |                                                               |
| 301 - 500*| Hazardous              |                                                               |

*IF THE AQI FOR PM2.5 IS GREATER THAN 500, RESPIRATORY PROTECTION IS MANDATORY FOR ALL WORKERS IN AFFECTED AREAS.

Potential health effects of poor air quality include:
• Coughing
• Wheezing
• Difficulty breathing

Long-term exposure can cause chronic conditions and an early death!

Actions to reduce exposure include, but are not limited to:
• Moving to locations where the AQI of PM2.5 is less than 151.
• Reducing worktime in areas with unfiltered air.
• Reducing physical intensity of work to lower breathing and heart rates.
• Voluntarily wearing NIOSH-approved N95 (or higher) respiratory protective equipment. Caltrans provides P100 respiratory masks that exceed this minimum requirement (Warehouse Item Number: 4240-1722-4).

If you have any questions about this requirement, please contact your District Safety Office or the HQ Office of Health and Safety.

Information current as of July 29, 2019