

# Wildfire Smoke Exposure

## SUMMARY

Employee exposure to wildfire smoke can cause illness, injury or death. This standard establishes the minimum requirements necessary for controlling employee exposure to wildfire smoke in order to maintain a safe and healthy work environment and to meet the regulatory requirements established in 8 CCR 5141.1 (Protection from Wildfire Smoke).

## TARGET AUDIENCE

**Voluntary Respirator Use Employees:** All employees who are working and are reasonably expected to be exposed to wildfire smoke and the current Air Quality Index (AQI) for PM2.5 is between 0-501, regardless of the AQI for other pollutants, and **Mandatory Respirator Use Employees:** All employees who are exposed to wildfire smoke and the AQI for PM2.5 is 501 or greater.

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## REQUIREMENTS

### 1 Monitoring

AQI levels as determined by the EPA and/or Air Quality Control Districts are available through the AirNow website ([www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov)). PG&E will rely on these values as our primary data source to guide respirator use requirements and employee deployments.

In basecamps or other emergency response functions, the Industrial Hygiene team may calculate localized AQI levels to advise the Incident Command (IC) Safety Officer, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Safety Officer, and/or other leadership whether voluntary or mandatory use of respiratory protection is appropriate.

### 2 Systems of Communication

2.1 Managers and/or supervisors must be aware of the working conditions of their employees who may be exposed to wildfire smoke, by one of the following:

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- 2.2 Managers and/or supervisors may access the AirNow website prior to every shift for localized AQI levels and periodically throughout the workday to monitor for changing conditions.
- 2.3 Alternatively, managers and/or supervisors may use reported AQI levels as reported by the PG&E Meteorology department which will provide alerts when the AQI exceeds established threshold.

NOTE: In basecamp deployments or other emergency deployments, the Industrial Hygiene team may provide updates, as appropriate, to the Incident Command Safety Officer, EOC Safety Officer and/or other leadership as necessary.

### 3 Use of Respiratory Protection

- 3.1 Voluntary respirator use: PG&E will make available filtering facepiece respirators (i.e. N95 or P100) and required informational/training literature to all affected employees working out-of-doors or in other unventilated locations when AQI levels are 0-500. Employee respirator use is strictly **VOLUNTARY**; however, managers and/or supervisors should strongly encourage respirator usage.

Mandatory respirator use: When the AQI reaches Hazardous levels (AQI $\geq$ 501) as a result of wildfire smoke, affected field operations must cease and employees must seek an environment or location with improved air quality until conditions improve. For pre-selected employees required to work in AQI $\geq$ 501 conditions (i.e. performing 'life safety' or 'make safe' operations) PG&E will provide the appropriate respirator which may include Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs) for mandatory use. Employees utilizing respirators in mandatory use conditions must be medically cleared, fit tested (Non-PAPR) and trained in respirator use, care, maintenance, and storage prior to use. Note, PAPRs do not have the fit testing requirement.

### END of Requirements

#### DEFINITIONS

PM2.5. Solid particles and liquid droplets suspended in air, known as particulate matter, with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 micrometers or smaller

#### IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES

Safety and Health will communicate the requirements of this standard to the impacted Lines of Business's. Line of Business leadership is responsible for determining which of their employees are covered by this standard.

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### GOVERNING DOCUMENT

Safety and Health Policy

### COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT / REGULATORY COMMITMENT

California Code of Regulations Title 8 Sections 5141.1; 5144

### REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

#### Developmental References:

N/A

#### Supplemental References:

Appendices

### APPENDICES

N/A

### ATTACHMENTS

N/A

### DOCUMENT REVISION

N/A

### DOCUMENT APPROVER

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### REVISION NOTES

Where?	What Changed?