



When wildfires occur, the university monitors local air quality to assess the impact on operations and implements controls protective of employee health. In May 2022, Oregon OSHA adopted rule [OAR 437-002-1081](#) to protect employees against occupational exposure to wildfire smoke. The rules require certain actions that should be taken when wildfire smoke particulate concentrations reach specific thresholds (see chart below). Please review the [UO Wildfire Smoke Exposure Control Plan](#) which outlines roles and responsibilities of all employees to help reduce exposure. For more information, contact EHS.

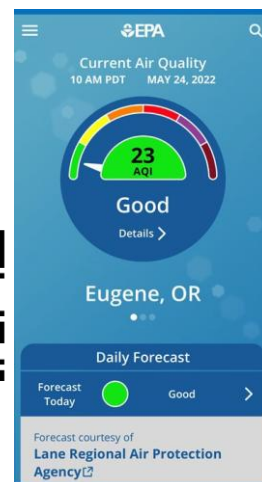
UPDATE: in May 2024, the US Environmental Protection Agency updated how it defines the Air Quality Index (AQI) values that represent specific particulate concentrations. This update has no impact on the level of protection from smoke particulate that is required by Oregon OSHA. The chart below reflects the May 2024 updated AQI definitions.

AQI ACTION LEVELS – FROM WILDFIRE SMOKE

AQI LEVEL	ACTION
≤100	Normal Operations
101-276	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notify supervisors of outdoor workers of smoke event (Supervisors will inform their respective staff) 2. Remind employees to close all building windows and doors 3. Where possible, place HVAC systems in “Smoke Mode” 4. Provide employees training and 2-way communication method between supervisors and employees 5. Either implement engineering controls* OR provide N95 for voluntary use 6. EHS implements daily monitoring of AQI (PM_{2.5})
277-848	Exposed employees required to be provided and use N95 respirator – Wildfire Respiratory Protection Program
≥849	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exposed employees required to be provided and use N95 respirator – Standard Respiratory Protection Program 2. A campus closure may be implemented according to the Inclement Weather Protocols.
*Engineering and administrative controls may include: temporarily relocating outdoor work to indoor work or vehicles, placing air scrubbers in enclosed work area, changing employee work schedules to when better air quality is forecast, etc.	

WHAT TO DO

- Supervisors of outdoor workers may reassign employees to indoor work where possible.
- Take the [Wildfire Smoke Safety Training](#) on MyTrack!
- Visit [safety.uoregon.edu](#) to read the [Wildfire Smoke Exposure Control Plan](#)
- Download the free AirNow app or visit [AirNow.gov](#) to monitor the AQI.
- Work with your supervisor to limit outside work when air quality is poor.
- Non-exempt employees, decide if you want to voluntarily wear an N95 if smoke from a wildfire has results in AQI levels between 100 – 276.
- N95s are respirators! If you want to wear an N95 at work outside of wildfire smoke season, **you must first contact EHS for consultation and training.**
- Report work-related smoke effects injuries and illnesses to your supervisor (burning and tearing of eyes, sore throat, coughing difficulty breathing, wheezing, fatigue, headache, irregular heartbeat, chest pain).
- Call **911** and **UOPD** (541-346-2919) for an emergency.



Scan the QR code to download the free AirNow app to monitor AQI on your phone.

