



WILDFIRE SMOKE

collects in the Southern Willamette Valley due to a combination of factors, including the geography of the valley, the location of the wildfires, and weather patterns during nearby active fires. Wildfire smoke can cause negative health effects to employees who are exposed while working.

Oregon OSHA implemented rules to limit employee exposure to wildfire smoke. The rules communicate certain actions that should be taken, by outdoor workers, when the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaches specific thresholds (see chart below). The university has developed a [Wildfire Smoke Exposure Control Plan](#) to outline the roles and responsibility of all employees to help reduce exposure.

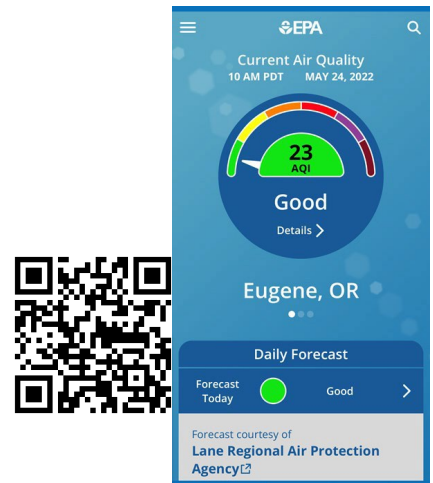
AQI ACTION LEVELS – FROM WILDFIRE SMOKE

AQI LEVEL	ACTION
≤100	Normal Operations
101-250	<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 (PM2.5)
251-500	Exposed employees required to be provided and use N95 respirator – Wildfire Respiratory Protection Program
≥501	<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.
- Decide if you want to voluntarily wear an N95 if smoke from a wildfire has results in AQI levels between 100 - 250.
- 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.

