The following Program Document supports Washington State University (WSU) Campuses, Colleges, Departments, Units, faculty, instructors, supervisors, and hosts efforts to reduce health impacts from wildfire/outdoor smoke and particulates to students, employees, guests and visitors. WSU’s Campuses, Colleges, Departments, Units work together to proactively provide advice and assistance to address the health impacts of wildfire/outdoor smoke and particulates to WSU students, employees, guests and visitors for WSU activities.

During the summer and fall, wildfires and weather inversions increase the likelihood that wildfire/outdoor smoke and particulates will create adverse health effects. During those seasons and conditions, WSU Environmental Health and Safety Offices (EHS) will monitor the Washington State Department of Ecology Air Monitoring Network, and other applicable local air monitoring networks, including the WSU air monitor on the roof of Martin Stadium.

EHS will share advisory information with the WSU News Service and the WSU Office of Emergency Management to make applicable announcements and notifications for WSU students, employees, event participants, guests and visitors. Air quality information will be available on the EHS Pullman and other websites.

### COVID-19

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) recommend increasing outdoor air ventilation in buildings to support dilution and help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 virus. This guidance is in direct conflict of steps taken to protect human health from wildfire/outdoor smoke when WSU Facilities and Auxiliary Facilities place buildings in recirculation mode i.e. no outdoor air to reduce smoke entrainment. It has been determined the need to protect individuals from COVID-19 outweighs the hazard from wildfire smoke. Due to this conflict, WSU’s wildfire response during the COVID-19 pandemic shall be modified as follows:

- EH&S monitors wildfire smoke using Department of Ecology, WSU Laboratory Atmospheric Research, and WSU Environmental Health and Safety websites to determine if AQI is approaching unhealthy or model predicts unhealthy conditions to occur in the next 48 hours.
- When particulate matter 2.5 concentrations (PM 2.5) reach “unhealthy” as defined by EPA’s Air Quality Index (AQI) or are predicted to be unhealthy, EH&S notifies Emergency Management.
- Emergency Management calls a Weather Triage Group meeting which at a minimum will include representatives from:
  - The Provost’s Office or appointed representative with authority to make decisions about temporary shifting of in-person classes to online classes for the health of students, faculty and staff;
  - Human Resource Services to help support teleworking options; and
  - Cougar Health Services to help support student health.
• If the potential hazard from wildfire/outdoor smoke warrants switching to online classes and teleworking, Essential employees capable of working without adverse health effects associated with wildfire smoke continue working on campus to maintain animal care, building systems, and necessary student support such as Dining Services, etc.

RESPONSIBILITY

Colleges/Departments/Units are responsible for incorporating SPPM S6.56, *Wildfire / Outdoor Smoke and Particulates*, and this program document into their Accident Prevention Program, SPPM S2.10.1, to provide personnel with College/Departmental/Unit specific procedures and guidelines reducing health impacts from wildfire/outdoor smoke and particulates.


Supervisors, professors, coaches, hosts, etc. (responsible individuals) are to work with the applicable University resources identified below to address student, employee and visitor concerns during periods of air quality impairment.

SUPPORTING DEPARTMENTAL/UNIT ROLES

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

- Post air quality hazard information on the WSU Alerts web page (alert.wsu.edu), with links to other communication vehicles (e.g. WSU APP) as appropriate for worsening air quality conditions.

WSU Pullman - Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHS)

- Will provide information, at least weekly, from the Washington Department of Ecology and Washington Department of Health about wildfire/outdoor smoke and particulates in WSU Announcements.
- Will monitor the air quality in Pullman and at locations with Research Stations across the State.
- If air quality has deteriorated or is projected to deteriorate to Unhealthy levels (Air Quality Index (AQI) >150) at WSU Pullman or any Research Station, Pullman EHS will notify Emergency Management to call a Weather Triage Group meeting.
- Will assist Colleges/Departments/Units with their Accident Prevention Program.

Other Campus EHS Offices

- Other Campus EHS Offices will monitor the air quality at their campuses and make appropriate notifications.

Athletics

- Athletics has their own Wildfire Smoke Program Document to address practices,
events and conditions at Pullman, PAC 12, and other locations. Please contact the Associate Director of Athletics Events and Facilities with questions or concerns.

Facilities Services
- Monitor HVAC systems and replace air filters if wildfire/outdoor smoke has reduced effectiveness of filter

Human Resource Services
- Assists employees and departments to address personnel related matters (teleworking, schedule modifications, alternate work locations, reasonable accommodations, modified duties) during periods of air quality concern.

Student Affairs – Access Center
- Assists students with disabilities/chronic medical conditions to address issues during periods of air quality concern.

Cougar Health Services
- Assist with decision making on the cancellation/postponement of scheduled University events.
- Work with Office of Emergency Management and WSU News Services to determine in and when WSU Alerts or WSU Announcements regarding how to protect health of students, employees, guests, and visitors from unhealthy air quality conditions are necessary.

WSU News Services
- Communicate to the University community, as well as guests and visitors, air quality hazards based on information provided by EH&S.
- WSU News will make an announcement as indicated below in “Communication Plan and Emergency Notifications” during periods of air quality impairment.

Provost’s Office
- Based on Weather Triage Group recommendations determine if classes need to be cancelled or switch to online format.

Air Quality Index Levels- Numerical Values - Meaning and Guidelines

Air quality levels can be monitored on the following websites
- Environmental Health and Safety, https://airquality.wsu.edu/
- Laboratory for Atmospheric Research forecasting, http://lar.wsu.edu/airpact/

Health impact information from wildfire smoke can be found on the Washington Department of Health website, http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/AirQuality/WildfireSmoke