WSU Wildfire/Outdoor Smoke and Particulates
Program Document
Revised: June 2019

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 wildlife/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.

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

Public Safety / 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 the air quality is projected to deteriorate to **Unhealthy** levels (Air Quality Index (AQI) >150) at WSU Pullman or any Research Station, Pullman EHS will notify Athletics, Student Affairs and remind Facilities Services or Research Station facilities staff to switch applicable building HVAC systems to recirculation mode.
  - If the air quality is projected to reach **Very Unhealthy** (AQI >200) at WSU-Pullman or any Research Station Pullman EHS will notify the Office of Emergency Management and Cougar Health Services and determine if outdoor activities should be cancelled.
- 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

- If possible, switch building HVAC systems to the recirculation mode as needed or upon request if feasible

Human Resource Services

- Assists employees and departments to address personnel related matters (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

- Provide consultation to assist with executive decision making on the cancellation/postponement of scheduled University events.
- Work with Office of Emergency Management and WSU News Services to determine if 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 EHS.
- WSU News will make an announcement as indicated below in “Communication Plan and Emergency Notifications” during periods of air quality impairment.

**VOLUNTARY RESPIRATOR USE**

The respirable particulate (PM 2.5) concentrations as defined by the Washington State Department of Ecology’s “Unhealthy” or “Hazardous” air quality indexes are unlikely to exceed permissible exposure levels (PELs) established by the Washington Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH). Respirator use is not likely required. WSU employees, who are expected to work outside during periods of impaired air quality may elect to voluntarily use a N95 filtering face piece respirator. Note: Tight fitting (elastomeric) respirators require medical evaluation and clearance prior to use. Use of an N95 filtering face piece respirator is voluntary providing:

- The supervisor does not require employees to wear a respirator;
- EHS is contacted and determines airborne contaminant concentrations do not exceed PELs;
- Employees are provided the voluntary respirator use advisory information available in Table 2 of WAC 296-842-11005.

N95 filtering face piece respirators may be provided for voluntary use per unit/departmental policy. Departments must evaluate voluntary use of respirators to ensure that such use does not interfere with employee’s ability to work safely or create an additional hazard.

**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/](https://airquality.wsu.edu/)
- Laboratory for Atmospheric Research forecasting, [http://lar.wsu.edu/airpact/](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](http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/AirQuality/WildfireSmoke)

**Communication Plan and Emergency Notifications**

During the wildfire season WSU Pullman Environmental Health and Safety (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.

Pullman EHS will notify Pullman Office of Emergency Management, Cougar Health Services (CHS), and Athletics, if the air quality at WSU Pullman or at Research Stations is Very Unhealthy (AQI >200).
Other Campus EHS Offices will notify their Office of Emergency Management, Chancellor, other appropriate offices at their locations, and the WSU Pullman Office of Emergency Management if the air quality at their WSU Campus is **Very Unhealthy** (AQI >200).

The WSU Pullman Office of Emergency Management will notify the Vice Presidents for Finance and Administration, Student Affairs, and Marketing and Communications, Pullman EHS, and Cougar Health Services.