The following Program Document supports Washington State University (WSU) Colleges, Departments, Units, faculty, instructors, supervisors, and hosts efforts to reduce health impacts from wildfire/outdoor smoke and particulates to WSU students, employees, guests and visitors. WSU Colleges/Departments/Units are working together to proactively provide advice and assistance in addressing the health impacts of wildfire/outdoor smoke and particulates to WSU students, employees, guests and visitors during outdoor activities. Please call your local EH&S office for contacts.

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, the local EH&S office will monitor the Washington State Department of Ecology Air Monitoring Network and Washington Air Quality Advisory system.

Air quality warnings will be posted on the applicable local EH&S website, and advisory information will be shared 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.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

Colleges/Departments/Units are responsible for incorporating SPPM S6.56 (Wildfire / Outdoor Smoke and Particulates [http://old-www.wsu.edu/manuals_forms/HTML/SPPM/6_Public_Health_and_Environmental_Quality/6.56_Wildfire_Outdoor_Smoke_Particulates.htm]) and this program document into their Accident Prevention Program (refer to SPPM S2.10.1 [http://old-www.wsu.edu/manuals_forms/HTML/SPPM/2_General_Workplace_Safety/2.10_Accident_Prevention_Responsibility.htm]) to provide personnel with College/Departmental/Unit specific procedures and guidelines reducing wildfire/outdoor smoke and particulates health impacts.

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**

**Emergency Management**

- 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.
Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S)
- Monitor the air quality across the State
- Inform the University Community about outdoor air quality concerns on a weekly basis in WSU announcement during the wildfire season.
- Notify the EH&S executive director and the Office of Emergency Management if the air quality index reaches Hazardous at any WSU location statewide.

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.

WSU Health and Wellness
- Assist with decision making on the cancellation/postponement of scheduled University events.

WSU News
- 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.

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;
- EH&S 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 Washington Department of Ecology website at [https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/enviwa/](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/enviwa/)

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

**Communication Plan and Emergency Notifications**

For public events that require notification, make an announcement at the event on the public address system using the Dept. of Ecology ([https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/enviwa/App_AQI%5CAQI.en-US.pdf](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/enviwa/App_AQI%5CAQI.en-US.pdf)). In addition, when the air is **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** or **Unhealthy** contact WSU News for a radio announcement, WSU Alerts, and WSU Health and Wellness. When the air is **Very Unhealthy** or **Hazardous**, contact the VP for Finance and Administration, WSU News for a radio announcement, WSU Alerts, and WSU Health and Wellness.

For more information go to Environmental Health & Safety’s Wildfire Smoke page at [http://ehs.wsu.edu/ph/wildfiresmoke.html](http://ehs.wsu.edu/ph/wildfiresmoke.html). The page includes links to the Washington Department of Ecology website with current air quality statewide, and precautions to take if the air quality deteriorates. If you have further questions please contact Environmental Health & Safety at 509-335-3041.

**Useful Links**

A. Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) – Wildfire Smoke  
[http://ehs.wsu.edu/ph/wildfiresmoke.html](http://ehs.wsu.edu/ph/wildfiresmoke.html)

B. Department of Ecology (DOE):  
Washington Air Quality Advisory (health effects index):  
[https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/enviwa/App_AQI%5CAQI.en-US.pdf](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/enviwa/App_AQI%5CAQI.en-US.pdf)  
DOE real time air monitoring data:  
[https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/enviwa/](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/enviwa/)  
DOE Air Quality Web Site:  
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/air.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/air.html)  
DOE Air Monitoring Web Site:  
C. Department of Health:
   Dept. of Health (DOH) Wildfire Smoke
   http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/AirQuality/OutdoorAir/SmokeFromFires/FrequentlyaskedQuestionsaboutWildfireSmoke.aspx
   DOH Outdoor Air Quality:
   http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/AirQuality/OutdoorAir.aspx
   DOH Air Quality; Measures and Data – Washington Tracking Network:
   http://www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/EnvironmentalHealth/WashingtonTrackingNetworkWTN/AirQuality
   DOH Smoke from Fires:
   http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/AirQuality/OutdoorAir/SmokeFromFires.aspx

D. Western US Air Quality Index Web Links
   California (Southern): http://www.aqmd.gov/home/tools/air-quality#MainToolList
   Colorado: http://www.colorado.gov/airquality/all_sites_map_ags.aspx
   Idaho: http://airquality.deq.idaho.gov/
   Montana: http://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/
   Nationwide:
   http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=airnow.showlocal&CityID=510,
   http://wasmoke.blogspot.com/
   New Mexico: http://drdasnm1.alink.com/
   Oregon: http://www.deq.state.or.us/qaq/index.aspx
   Wyoming: http://www.wyvisnet.com/

E. Other Resources
   Wildfire Smoke: A Guide for Public Health Officials:
   CDC Emergency Preparedness – Wildfires:
   Local Air Quality Indexes and Forecasts for Washington:
   http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=airnow.local_state&stateid=49&tab=0
   Spokane Regional Clean Air
   https://www.spokanecleanair.org/current-air-quality
   AirwatchNW
   http://www.airwatchnw.org/
   Cal EPA:
http://www.arb.ca.gov/smp/calfires/calfires.htm
Whitman County Health Department
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
http://www.pscleanair.org/airquality/ourairquality/Pages/currentaq.aspx
Southwest Washington Clean Air Agency
http://www.swcleanair.org/airqualindex.html
Benton Clean Air Agency
http://bentoncleanair.org/index.php/air-quality/air-quality-monitoring/