



## Alert: Wildfire Smoke Protection

As wildfires continue to spread throughout California, it is imperative that outdoor agricultural workers are protected from smoke exposure. The Wildfire Smoke Protection Standard requires employers to do the following:

- Monitor the air quality
  - For the current AQI in your area, click [HERE](#)
- If AQI is 151 or greater, provide your workforce one of these types of respirators:
  - To filter out fine particles, respirators must be labeled N-95, N-99, N-100, R-95, P-95, P-99, or P-100, and must be labeled as approved by the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Full facepiece respirators provide at least five times as much protection from fine particles as half facepiece respirators such as filtering facepiece respirators (dust masks).
- **Train Employees (trainings should include):**
  - The health effects of wildfire smoke.
  - The right to obtain medical treatment without fear of reprisal.
  - How employees can obtain the current Air Quality Index (AQI) – give them the above website.
  - Share your two-way communication system with workers on how you'll keep them updated for changing conditions.
  - Provide N95 masks, show them how to use and maintain them, and encourage them to use them (they can refuse to wear one and if someone does, there needs to be a waiver where they sign off that they were offered a respirator and declined to use it) \*The employer must require employees to use respirators when the AQI for PM2.5 is greater than 500.
  - The importance, limitations, and benefits of using a respirator when exposed to wildfire smoke.
  - What you'll do to protect them from smoke – when you'll stop work, when you'll move them to another location, etc.

The specifics on each of these can be found here:

[https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5141\\_1b.html](https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5141_1b.html)

If you have additional questions please contact AgSafe at [safeinfo@agsafe.org](mailto:safeinfo@agsafe.org) or (209)526-4400.