



SAFETY TAILGATE MEETING

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Company	Thomas James Homes: SoCal	Project	10469 ILONA		
Date	January 13, 2025	Time	12:00 PM	Conductor	Jose Valadez

WILDFIRE SMOKE SAFETY

INTRODUCTION

Smoke from wildfires contains gases, chemicals, and fine particles that can have adverse health effects. The most significant hazard comes from breathing fine particles in the air, which can cause coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, and impact lung function as well as existing respiratory and heart conditions. Fine particulate matter of the 2.5 micrometer diameter or smaller size (PM 2.5) are considered to be the most harmful.

Cal/OSHA has established regulatory requirements for employers to protect outdoor workers from wildfire smoke exposure. This regulation, 8 CCR §5141.1. *Protection from Wildfire Smoke* applies to workplaces where the 2.5 PM Air Quality Index (AQI) is **151 or greater** and the employee may be exposed to wildfire smoke.

This program applies to employees who may need to work outdoors for an extended period of time during a wildfire. It does not apply to:

- Enclosed buildings or structures in which the air is filtered by a mechanical ventilation system and the employer ensures that windows, doors, bays, and other openings are kept closed to minimize contamination by outdoor or unfiltered air.
- Enclosed vehicles in which the air is filtered by a cabin air filter and the employer ensures that windows, doors, and other openings are kept closed to minimize contamination by outdoor or unfiltered air.
- We demonstrate that the concentration of PM 2.5 in the air does not exceed a concentration that corresponds to a current AQI of 151 or greater by measuring PM 2.5 levels at the worksite in accordance with Appendix A of 8 CCR §5141.1.
- Employees exposed to a current AQI for PM 2.5 of 151 or greater for a total of one hour or less during a shift.

In this meeting, we will discuss:

(1) Air Quality Index (AQI)

(2) How the Program Works

(3) Wildfire Smoke Exposure Control Plan Specifics

AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI)

The Current Air Quality Index (AQI) is the method used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to report air quality on a real-time basis.

The current AQI is divided into six categories as shown in the table below. It is important to remember these categories.

Air Quality Index(AQI)	
Categories for PM2.5	Levels of Health Concern
0 to 50	Good
51 to 100	Moderate
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
151 to 200	Unhealthy
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy
301 to 500	Hazardous

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Our Company is required to:

- Maintain and update a written Wildfire Smoke Exposure Management Program.
- Provide training for employees who perform work activities outdoors during or after wildfires when smoke is present.
- Measure PM 2.5 levels at the worksite before each shift and at designated intervals during wildfire events.
- Provide updated information to facility supervision regarding AQI forecasts and the current AQI.

Managers and Supervisors of employees who perform work activities outdoors during or after wildfires when smoke is present must:

- Ensure that their employees are made aware of this Wildfire Smoke Exposure Management Program.
- Ensure that their employees have access to respiratory protection supplies (i.e.- N95s) and are wearing respirators when the AQI is >500.
- To the extent feasible, encourage and allow employees to work in enclosed structures or vehicles where the air is filtered.
- Implement the following control systems for employees that must work outdoors during a wildfire:
 - Changing procedures such as moving workers to a place with a lower current AQI for PM 2.5.
 - Reducing work time in areas with unfiltered air;
 - Increasing rest time and frequency, and providing a rest area with filtered air; and
 - Reducing the physical intensity of the work to help lower the breathing and heart rates
 - Notify the safety director if their employees inform them that the air quality is getting worse or if they are suffering from any symptoms due to the air quality.

Employees working outdoors during a wildfire must:

- Understand and follow the requirements of the Wildfire Smoke Exposure Management Program, including participating in training.
- Wear respirators when required to do so (i.e.- AQI is >500).
- Inform their supervisor if the air quality is getting worse.
- Inform their supervisor if they are suffering from any symptoms due to the air quality.

Contractors and visitors are encouraged to:

- Remain in enclosed structures or vehicles where the air is filtered, as much as possible during a wildfire unless instructed to evacuate.
- Follow any instructions provided by facility management.
- Seek medical attention if they are suffering from any symptoms due to the air quality.

WILDFIRE EXPOSURE SMOKE CONTROL PLAN SPECIFICS

Exposure Monitoring

Our company will use the following methods to determine employees' potential exposure to PM 2.5 while working outdoors during a wildfire:

- Monitoring AQI information available via the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) airnow.gov; and/or
- Using a direct-reading particulate monitor to determine PM 2.5 levels at the worksite.

Communication of Air Quality and Protective Measures

The safety director is responsible for informing facility management about air quality, protective measures, and closures. Communication methods can include emails, text alerts, and/or phone calls.

Employees are encouraged to notify their supervisors of worsening air quality and any adverse symptoms they may be experiencing due to smoke exposure.

Exposure Control Methods

The primary method of controlling exposure to wildfire smoke is Engineering Controls. Acceptable Engineering Controls include enclosed buildings, structures, or vehicles where the air is filtered.

Whenever Engineering Controls are not feasible or do not reduce employee exposure to PM 2.5 to less than a AQI of 151, we will implement Administrative Controls. Acceptable Administrative Controls include relocating workers to a location where the AQI is lower, changing work schedules, reducing work intensity, or providing rest periods.

Control by Respiratory Protective Equipment

The AQI will determine whether respirator use is voluntary or required for employees that must work outdoors during a wildfire.

- 1. AQI of 151-500 (Voluntary use)**
 - a. N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators will be provided to employees working outdoors to use on a voluntary basis.
 - b. Dispose of N95 immediately if damaged, soiled/wet, or difficulty breathing through the mask.
 - c. Do not reuse N95s, put on a new N95 at the start of each work shift.
 - d. If you experience difficulty breathing, dizziness, or nausea while wearing the N95, go to a safe area with cleaner air to remove the mask and seek medical attention
- 2. AQI of >500 (Required use)**

Use must be in compliance with a company respiratory protection program, including employees who are:

- Medically cleared for tight-fitting respirator use;
- Trained on using a tight-fitting respirator; and

- Fit-Tested for the specific tight-fitting respirator they will be using.
- Provided NIOSH certified respirators with the appropriate protection factor (i.e. - half-face full-face respirators based on the AQI) to medically cleared, trained, and fit-tested respirator users.

Training

Employees are to be trained in the following:

- 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) for PM2.5;
- The requirements in Title 8, section 5141.1 about wildfire smoke;
- The employer's two-way communication system;
- The employer's methods to protect employees from wildfire smoke;
- The importance, limitations, and benefits of using a respirator when exposed to wildfire smoke and
- How to properly put on, use, and maintain the respirators provided by the employer

Attendees Names

Jose Valdez

Attendees Signatures

N/A

CONDUCTOR SIGNATURE



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