



## OSHA Smoke Rules Basic Requirements

**Background:** Oregon OSHA has adopted rules designed to protect workers from harmful exposure to wildfire smoke. This document outlines the basic elements of the rules, which become effective on July 1, 2022. The full smoke rules can be found here: [osha.oregon.gov/OSHARules/adopted/2022/ao4-2022-text-smoke-exposure.pdf](https://osha.oregon.gov/OSHARules/adopted/2022/ao4-2022-text-smoke-exposure.pdf).

### Rule Applicability

#### Workplaces

- Outdoor workplaces when the air quality index (AQI) exceeds 100,
- Indoor workplaces when the HVAC system can't keep the AQI from exceeding 100.

#### Exceptions

- Enclosed vehicles in which the air will be filtered through a cabin air filter system,
- If an employer plans to halt operations when the AQI exceeds 100,
- Employees working from home,
- Certain employees are subject only to training and voluntary respirator use, including those conducting emergency operations and those exposed to smoke for short periods.

### Rule Requirements

#### Exposure assessment

- At the start of each shift and as needed, determine if employees will be exposed to AQI above 100.

#### Information and training

- All employees who may be exposed to AQI above 100 must be trained annually.  
Training must include:
  - Symptoms and health effects of wildfire smoke exposure,
  - The right to report health problems and to obtain medical treatment,
  - How to obtain current and forecasted AQI for their work locations,
  - The proper use of filtering facepiece respirators,
  - The employer's smoke-protection procedures,
  - Review of any job tasks for which respirator use would create substantially greater risk of serious injury than wildfire smoke exposure,
  - The procedures supervisors must follow when an employee requires medical attention,
  - How to operate a PM2.5 monitoring device and interpret potential exposure,



- An explanation of the employer's two-way communication system for smoke information (below).
- Training records must be maintained and include:
  - The name or ID number of each employee trained,
  - The date(s) of the training(s), and,
  - The name of the trainer,
  - The most recent training record for each employee must be kept for one year.

### Employer two-way communication

Employers must implement a system to communicate wildfire smoke information between employees and supervisors containing:

- A means to notify exposed employees about worksite air quality; and,
- A means to enable employees to inform their employer or supervisor about:
  - Changes in the air quality at their work location,
  - Problems with the availability of exposure control measures; and,
  - Smoke-related symptoms that could require medical attention.

### Exposure controls

- Implement engineering and administrative controls to keep exposure below AQI 101:
  - Engineering controls may include, but are not limited to:
    - Temporarily relocating outdoor workers to indoor areas or vehicles,
    - Using portable air purifiers equipped with HEPA filters.
  - Administrative controls may include but are not limited to:
    - Relocating outdoor operations to other outdoor locations with better air,
    - Changing employee work schedules in pursuit of better air quality.
- Respiratory protection for exposure to AQI 101-250
  - Employer must provide appropriate respirators for voluntary employee use,
  - Respirators must be provided and replaced at no cost to employees.
- Respiratory protection for exposure to AQI 251-500
  - Employer must provide respirators and ensure that employees use them,
  - Employers must train employees on respirator use and maintenance.
- Respiratory protection above AQI 500
  - Employer must provide appropriate respirators and ensure that employees use them,
  - Employers must implement a Respiratory Protection Program, including fit testing.
- Exception to exposure control requirements: Employer can demonstrate that such controls are functionally impossible or would prevent the completion of work.