

**Wildfire smoke** may impede an employee’s ability to function in the field. The purpose of the new California regulation (T8 CCR 5141.1) is to provide protection for employees that may be exposed to wildfire smoke and fall out in an area with an Air Quality Index (AQI) greater than 151.

This fact sheet applies to all DTSC employees that work outside or in unfiltered buildings for more than one hour per shift during a wildfire smoke event.

**DTSC supervisors must inform their employees of the current AQI for PM2.5 and protective measures to take to reduce their wildfire smoke exposures.**

### Wildfire Smoke Requirements

1. Check AQI prior to site visit
2. Bring DTSC respirator & P100 cartridges to the site
3. Measure PM2.5, if necessary
4. Follow AQI Action Levels
5. Continue to communicate wildfire smoke hazards

### Controls

DTSC does not control field worksites. DTSC will control exposures by relocating work, changing the schedule, providing additional breaks, or offering respiratory protection.

### Communication

Supervisors shall communicate with staff via radio or phone regarding updated PM2.5 levels. If air quality deteriorates or adverse health effects occur, contact your supervisor.

### Respiratory Protection

DTSC has an established respiratory protection program. Respirators utilized for these

events are the MSA 200LS or MSA 4000 with P100 cartridges. To utilize a respirator, staff must be trained, fit-tested and medically certified. DTSC staff may only utilize DTSC issued respirators.

DTSC field staff will be trained during the HAZWOPER Refresher classes.

For additional information, consult the California Department of Industrial Relations at [www.dir.ca.gov](http://www.dir.ca.gov) or DTSC’s [Health and Safety Program](#).

### Air Quality Index (AQI) Action Levels

AQI < 151	No action
151 ≤ AQI ≤ 500	Respiratory protection <b>recommended</b> , provided by DTSC
AQI > 500	Respiratory protection <b>required</b> , provided by DTSC

### Health Hazards

Small particles (PM2.5) deposit in the lungs causing persistent coughing, phlegm, wheezing or difficulty breathing.

Wildfire smoke may also cause reduced lung function, bronchitis, exacerbated asthma, heart failure and death.

People over 65 have a higher risk to serious adverse effects.

If adverse health effects arise from work exposure, contact your supervisor for medical treatment.

### AQI and PM2.5 Levels

Check AQI Forecasts:

- [AirNow.gov](http://AirNow.gov)
- [enviroflash.info](http://enviroflash.info)
- [wildlandfiresmoke.net](http://wildlandfiresmoke.net)
- [tools.airfire.org](http://tools.airfire.org)
- [mobile.arb.ca.gov/breathewell](http://mobile.arb.ca.gov/breathewell)
- [arb.ca.gov/capcoa/dismap.htm](http://arb.ca.gov/capcoa/dismap.htm)

Measure PM2.5 Levels:

- TSI DustTrak DRX

PM 2.5 (µg/m3)	AQI equivalent
0 to 55.4	0 to 150
55.5 to 500.4	151 to 500

