

# WILDFIRE SMOKE SAFETY

## Toolbox Talk



### WHY IT MATTERS

- Wildfires produce smoke and fine particulates that can harm air quality and health.
- Smoke contains chemicals, gases, and particles that can cause respiratory issues and other illnesses.
- Outdoor workers are most impacted, but indoor environments can also be affected.

### KEY ACTION LEVELS

- AQI >150
  - Reduce outdoor work when possible.
  - Reschedule projects or tasks.
  - Increase rest and break periods.
  - Provide voluntary N95 respirators.
- AQI >500
  - Mandatory N95 respirator use for outdoor workers.
  - Medical evaluations and fit testing required.
  - Employers must implement emergency procedures.

#### AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI)

- AQI measures air quality and its potential impact on health.
- AQI >150 = “Unhealthy” air quality; employers must take action.
- AQI >500 = Emergency conditions; mandatory respiratory protection and additional measures.

#### N95 RESPIRATOR USE

- Voluntary use can help protect workers when AQI >150.
- N95 must fit properly to be effective — facial hair can interfere with the seal.
- N95 does not provide oxygen or protect against gases — only filters particulates.

#### EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Monitor AQI and communicate updates to workers.
- Provide training on wildfire smoke hazards and respirator use.
- Ensure compliance with Cal/OSHA Wildfire Smoke Regulation (Title 8, Section 5141.1).

**MONITOR AIR QUALITY, REDUCE EXPOSURE, AND USE N95 PROTECTION WHEN NEEDED — WILDFIRE SMOKE SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.**