



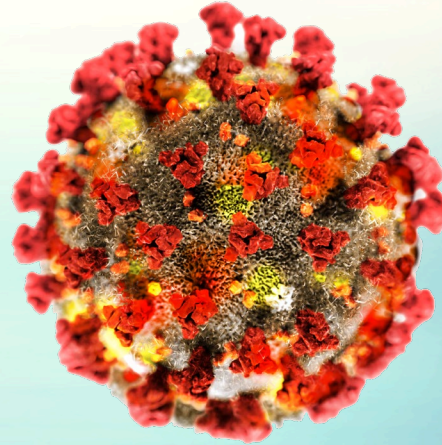
2020 Fire Preparedness Meeting

Amy MacPherson, Public Information Officer

2020: Two Concurrent Challenges



Wildfire Season



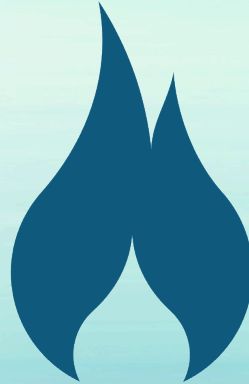
COVID-19 Pandemic

Smoke Messaging: Key Priorities

Clarity



Consistency



**Avoid
Confusion**

Best Practices

- Develop talking points early
- Know your audience
 - How do they get information?
 - Use plain language
- Make it visual
- Build relationships
- Work together!

Smoke Messaging at CARB

STAY INSIDE!

Smoke Messaging at CARB

- New and updated infographics coming soon
 - CARB [website](#) & [social media](#)



Smoke Messaging Resources

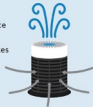
- Clean Air Rooms Campaign
- Santa Barbara County APCD

CLEAN INDOOR AIR DURING WILDFIRES

Smoke and ash from wildfires contain very small particles known as particulate matter. These particles harm the lungs and heart, and can cause coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, chest pain, nausea, and in severe instances, premature mortality. Kids, seniors, pregnant women, and people with heart or lung disease are especially sensitive. The best protection against wildfire smoke is to stay indoors as much as possible when smoke is present. Before the next wildfire, take steps to ensure your family will have safe indoor air quality.

How to Choose & Use an Air Purifier

HEPA (High-Efficiency Particulate Air) purifiers can reduce particulate matter indoors by 90%. Choose one that's right for you. They come in various makes and models, for different room sizes. A HEPA purifier for average-sized bedroom costs approximately \$75. You can purchase one at a hardware store or through online retailers.



Make sure it doesn't create ozone! Find a list of safe options online: www.apcd.ca.gov/research/indoor/aircleaners/certified.htm



Use the purifier in a room where you spend a lot of time, like a bedroom. Check your windows and doors and make sure the room is sealed tightly so smoke from the outdoors does not get pulled inside. Make sure to replace the filter as directed in the owner's manual. Filters need to be replaced more frequently when used during a wildfire.

www.OurAir.org



air pollution control district
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



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How to Make Your Own HEPA Air Purifier

STEP 1: MATERIALS
Purchase the following items from hardware stores or online retailers.



STEP 2: ASSEMBLE

Duct tape the air filter to the back of the box fan. Check the filter for the direction of the air flow (marked on the sides of the filter).

STEP 3: MAINTENANCE

Replace the filter more frequently if used during a wildfire. As needed, disassemble the box fan to wipe away any accumulated dirt. Check your windows and doors to make sure the room is sealed tightly so smoke from the outdoors does not get pulled inside.

FOR SAFETY, FOLLOW THESE PRECAUTIONS:

- Don't leave the device unattended.
- When the fan is modified in this way, use the device as an air cleaner, not as a fan to cool your home.
- Turn off the fan while sleeping.

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Minimizing Sources of Indoor Air Pollution



If temps are high and there is no way to keep the home cool with windows and doors shut, consider temporarily relocating until conditions improve.

www.OurAir.org

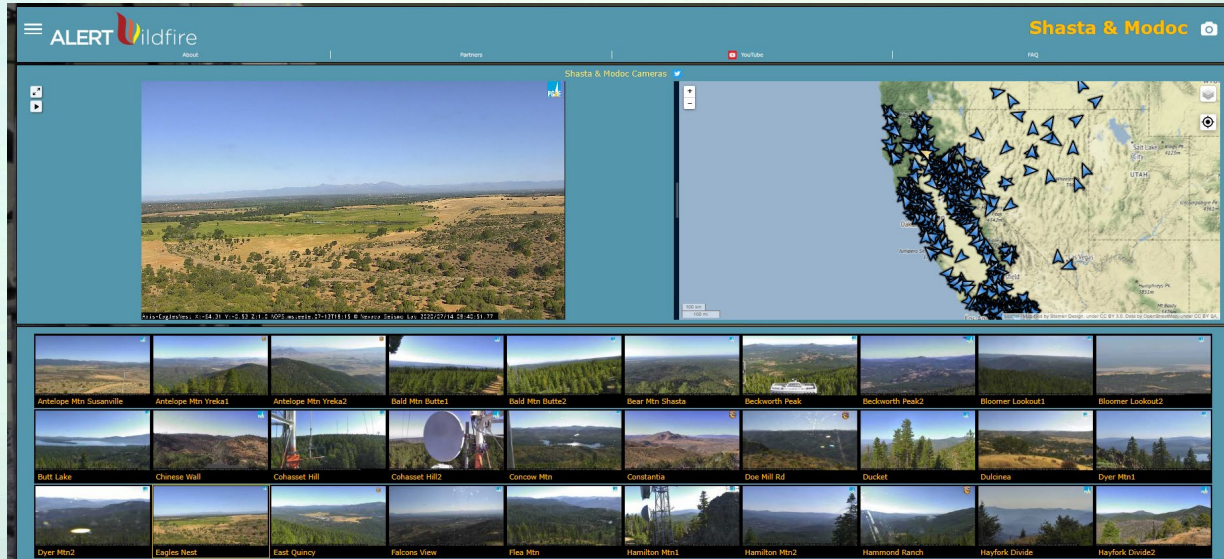


air pollution control district
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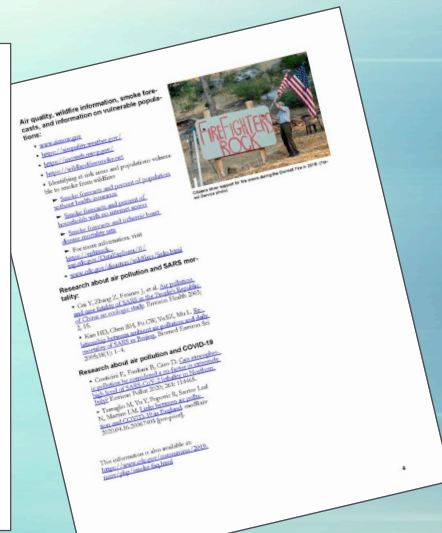
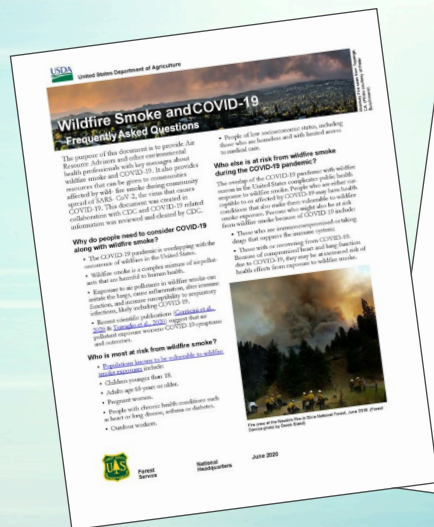
Smoke Messaging Resources

- ALERTWildfire Camera Network
 - University Consortium Project (UNR, UCSD, UO)



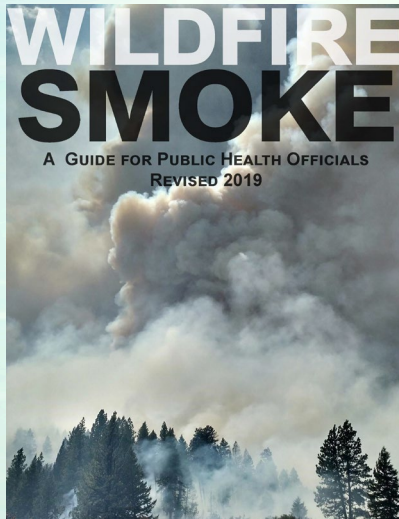
Smoke Messaging Resources

- Wildfire Smoke and COVID-19: [FAQ Document](#)
- Published by USDA (USFS & CDC)



Smoke Messaging Resources

- Wildfire Guide Post-Publication Updates
 - US EPA and CDC



Wildfire Guide Post-Publication Updates

This web page is for Wildfire Smoke Guide authors and contributors will post fact sheets, web links, and other new information developed since 2019. The goal is to provide public health officials with the latest information between revisions of the Guide.

Wildfire Preparedness and Response during COVID-19

- CDC - [Wildfire Smoke and COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions and Resources for Air Resource Advisors and Other Environmental Health Professionals](#)
- CDC - [COVID-19 Considerations for Cleaner Air Shelters and Cleaner Air Spaces to Protect the Public from Wildfire Smoke](#)
- CDC - [Natural Disasters and Severe Weather](#)
- CDC - [Interim Guidance for General Population Disaster Shelters During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- CDC - [FAQs for Wildland Firefighters](#)
- CDC - [Environmental Health Assessment Form for Disaster Shelters](#)

Indoor Air Quality and COVID-19

- EPA - [Frequent Questions about Indoor Air and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Other Smoke and COVID-19 Related Materials

- CDC - [Open Burning during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Due to the intersection of wildfire smoke and COVID-19 during the pandemic, below are general resources from CDC about COVID-19:

- [How to protect yourself and what to do if you are sick](#)
- [COVID-19 Communication Materials \(posters, handouts, flyers, videos\)](#)

Smoke Messaging Resources

- Smoke-Ready Toolbox
- US EPA

Smoke-Ready Toolbox for Wildfires

Smoke from wildfires in the United States is adversely affecting air quality and potentially putting more people at health risk from smoke exposure. EPA, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and other federal, state and community agencies and organizations are working together to identify ways the public can prepare to reduce their health risk before a wildfire. Public health officials and others can use the resources in the Smoke-Ready Toolbox to help educate people about the risks of smoke exposure and actions they can take to protect their health.

Smoke & Your Health



- [AirNow](#)
- [Smoke Advisories](#)
- [Fires and Your Health](#)
- [Frequent Questions](#)
- [Smoke Sense App](#)
- [Prepare for Natural Disasters and Recovery](#)

Other Resources



- [All Resources](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Infographics on Using a Respirator and Reducing Health Risks](#)
- [Health Fact Sheets](#)
- [Wildland Fire Research Fact Sheets](#)
- [Other Federal Government Resources](#)
- [State and Local Government Resources](#)

Current Fires



- [Current Fires](#)
- [Current Fire Incident Information System](#)
- [NOAA Smoke Forecast Tool](#)
- [NOAA's Fire Weather Outlook](#)
- [GEOMAC Wildland Fire Support](#)
- [MODIS Active Fire Mapping](#)
- [National Interagency Coordination Center](#)
- [National Interagency Fire Center](#)

For Health Professionals



- [2019 Revised: Wildfire Smoke Guide for Public Health Officials](#)
- [Video: 2019 Revised Wildfire Smoke Guide](#)
- [Health Fact Sheets](#)
- [Wildfire Smoke and Your Patients' Health Online Training](#)
- [Particle Pollution and Your Patients' Health Online Training](#)
- [Other Health Care Professional Resources](#)

Wildfire Smoke and COVID-19 Resources

- [Wildfire Smoke and COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions and Resources for Air Resource Advisors and Other Environmental Health Professionals](#)
- [COVID-19 Considerations for Cleaner Air Shelters and Cleaner Air Spaces to Protect the Public from Wildfire Smoke](#)
- [Natural Disasters and Severe Weather](#)
- [Interim Guidance for General Population Disaster Shelters During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
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Other Smoke and COVID-19 Related Materials

- [Open Burning during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Featured Resources

[Video: Wildfire Smoke: A Guide for Public Health Officials](#) [EXIT](#)

Smoke Messaging Resources

- California Smoke Blog

California Smoke Information

This site is a voluntary effort by city, county, state, tribal and/or federal agencies to coordinate and aggregate information for California communities affected by wildfire smoke.

HOME CURRENT AIR QUALITY WHERE'S THE FIRE SMOKE & HEALTH EFFECTS INFO FIRE POTENTIAL MAPPING - WEBCAMS - AIR QUALITY

MONDAY, JULY 13, 2020

Monday - July 13, 2020 - FAQ on Wildfire Smoke and Covid-19 from the USFS and CDC

The following information is from the USFS (US Department of Agriculture - United States Forest Service) and the (CDC) Center for Disease Control on Wildfire Smoke and Covid-19. Click on each of the 4 pages to read the information. Or you can click here to go to the CDC's website with the same information.

Wildfire Smoke and COVID-19
Frequently Asked Questions

The purpose of this document is to provide Air Resource Advisers and other environmental health professionals with key messages about wildfire smoke and COVID-19. It also provides resources that can be given to communities affected by wildfire smoke during community spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This document was created in collaboration with CDC and COVID-19 related information was reviewed and cleared by CDC.

Why do people need to consider COVID-19 along with wildfire smoke?

- The COVID-19 pandemic is overlapping with the occurrence of wildfires in the United States.
- Wildfire smoke is a complex mixture of air pollutants that can be harmful to human health.
- Exposure to air pollutants in wildfire smoke can irritate the lungs, cause inflammation, alter immune function, and increase susceptibility to respiratory infections, likely including COVID-19.
- Recent scientific publications (Gentile et al., 2020; & Strazielle et al., 2020) suggest that air pollutant exposure increases COVID-19 symptoms and outcomes.
- People of low socioeconomic status, including those who are homeless and with limited access to medical care.

Who else is at risk from wildfire smoke during the COVID-19 pandemic?

The overlap of the COVID-19 pandemic with wildfire season in the United States complicates public health response to wildfire smoke. People who are either susceptible to or affected by COVID-19 may have health conditions that also make them vulnerable to wildfire smoke exposure. People who might also be at risk from wildfire smoke because of COVID-19 include:

- Those who are immunosuppressed or taking drugs that suppress the immune system.
- Those with or recovering from COVID-19.
- Because of compromised heart and lung function due to COVID-19, they may be at increased risk of health effects from exposure to wildfire smoke.

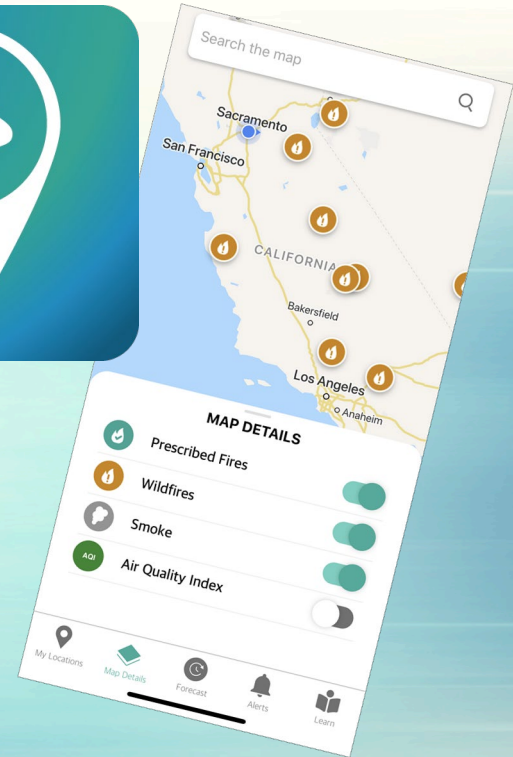
BLOG ARCHIVE
Blog Archive ▾

CALIFORNIA AIR DISTRICTS

- Amador County APCD
- Antelope Valley AQMD
- Bay Area AQMD
- Butte County AQMD
- Calaveras County APCD
- Colusa County APCD
- Eastern Kern County APCD
- El Dorado County AQMD
- Feather River AQMD
- Glenn County APCD
- Great Basin Unified APCD
- Imperial County APCD
- Lake County AQMD
- Lassen County APCD
- Mariposa County APCD
- Mendocino County AQMD
- Modoc County APCD
- Mojave Desert AQMD
- Monterey Bay Air Resources District
- North Coast AQMD
- Northern Sierra AQMD

California Smoke Spotter App

- Designed to track smoke from Prescribed Fires
- Shows smoke from all sources, including wildfires
- Currently in testing phase
- Tentative launch: August (subject to change)



Thank You!

Contact Us

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