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Wildfire Smoke and Air Quality Issues for School Districts *Minimizing Student and faculty exposure to wildfire smoke*

Wildfire season is here! Smoke from wildfires impacts local air quality and can cause health effects to students and faculty. Children's lungs and airways are still developing, and they breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults, making them especially sensitive to smoke pollution.

Use the following resources to minimize student and faculty exposure to wildfire smoke:

Track air quality and utilize your resources

- [Washington Air Quality Advisory](#): An information tool to advise you about air quality levels.
- [Department of Ecology's Washington Air Quality Monitoring Network](#): Webpage with interactive map and real-time air quality information.

Consider the implication of air quality on student and faculty health. Educate teachers, parents, and students to recognize physical and mental symptoms from smoke impact.

- [Department of Health's information on health impacts](#): Comprehensive webpages with frequently asked questions and a toolkit. You should be able to find the answer to most questions and links to other resources.
- [Here is the Know the Symptoms factsheet](#) that provides information about health effects from wildfire smoke exposure.
- Monitor students with pre-existing conditions. They should take alternative actions at lower smoke levels.

Choose alternatives outdoor activities

- [Here is the school activity guide](#) that provides recommendations for recess, P.E., and athletic events and practices during smoky conditions.

Recognize when poor air quality has become too hazardous for students

- The attached [guidance document](#) provides recommendations for closure of schools and cancellation of events when air quality reaches hazardous levels.

Take steps to improve indoor air quality

- Recommendations for Schools and Buildings with Mechanical Ventilation: Improving Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality during Wildfire Smoke Events ([PDF](#))
- [Fact Sheet: Reducing Your Smoke Exposure \(Environmental Protection Agency – EPA\)](#)

Communicate and coordinate with your local outdoor air authority and public health contacts during wildfire season!

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These recommendations and resources were compiled by the Wildfire Smoke Impacts Advisory Group. This is a workgroup consisting of local and state agencies with the intent of distributing consistent health messaging throughout Washington.
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1400/WFSImpactsAdvisoryGroupFINA L.pdf>