



SACRAMENTO STATE

Office of Environmental Health & Safety

EMERGENCY REGULATION: OUTDOOR WORKER AND WILDFIRE SMOKE FACT SHEET

The Emergency Regulation for Smoke

The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) has put into place an emergency regulation which affects those who work outdoors to protect against possible hazards from wildfire smoke exposure.

This regulation is applicable to workplaces where the PM 2.5 Air Quality Index (AQI) for particulate matter reaches a value of 151 or greater, which includes regions where the employers can reasonably expect employees could be exposed to wildfire smoke.

This new regulation states that employers must follow a set of guidelines to protect their workers exposed to wildfire smoke. These guidelines include:

- Identify exposure to wildfire smoke before each shift, and periodically throughout the shift by checking to see if the AQI is above 150.
- Reduce exposure to wildfire smoke by, for example, relocating outdoor work indoors where the AQI is not above 150.
- If it is not feasible to move work to an area where AQI is below 150, employers must provide:
 - N95 masks to employees to wear voluntarily.
 - Training on this new regulation

What Has Been Done On Campus?

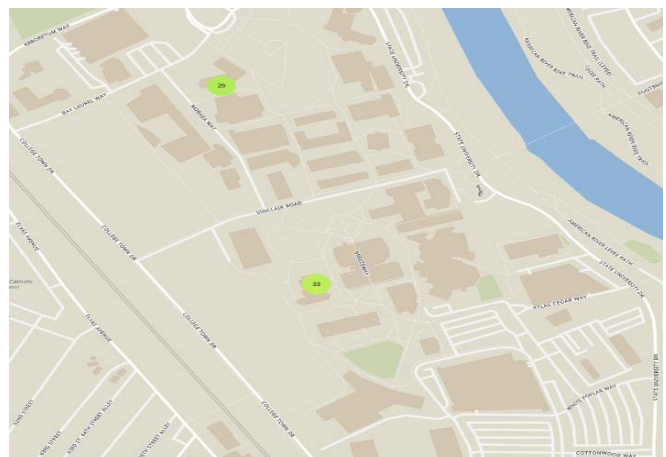
In the time since the Camp fire, Sacramento State Environmental Health and Safety has installed multiple air quality monitoring devices around campus. These monitors provide a real-time look at the AQI.

Data can be viewed at www.purpleair.com, and clicking on the "Map" icon. This will pull up all of the air monitors from across the globe, allowing the user to look at not only the Sacramento Area, but also areas surrounding their homes, or the homes of family and friends.

N95 Masks

The campus has N95 respirators available for employees. In the event that AQI levels are elevated above 150, instructions on how employees can get the N95 respirators will be will be announced.

Instructions on how to properly use the N95 respirators to provide protection will also be provided at that time.



Screenshot of PurpleAir Air Monitoring website, with each of the colored dots indicating an active PurpleAir monitoring site.

Why?

These emergency regulations were drafted at the end of 2018, just after the Camp fire. During the Camp fire, much of Northern California, including Sacramento, experienced AQI values much higher than 150.

**For more information regarding Wildfire Smoke Exposure on Campus,
please contact the Office of Environmental Health and Safety!**

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