



Wildfire Smoke Policy

South Bay Grading

Purpose

South Bay Grading will follow the procedures in this program to protect our outdoor workers from wildfire smoke and comply with the Cal/OSHA Protection from Wildfire Smoke regulation T8 CCR5141.1.

Scope

This policy will apply when it **can be expected that employees may be exposed to wildfire smoke and the current Air Quality Index (AQI) for PM2.5 is 151 or greater**. This policy does not apply to the following workplaces or operations:

- Enclosed buildings where windows, doors, and other openings are kept closed and the air is filtered by mechanical ventilation
- Enclosed vehicles where windows, doors, and other openings are kept closed and the air is filtered by a cabin air filter
- Where worksite measurements of PM2.5 show that the current AQI does not equal or exceed 151
- Employees exposed to a current AQI of 151 or greater for less than one hour during their shift
- Firefighters engaged in wildland firefighting

Responsibilities

Overall Program Management

This program will be managed by Shawn Dean/President. Management of this program will include the following:

- Maintain and update this written program.
- Provide training to employees who are covered by this program.
- Maintain an adequate supply of N95 respirators.
- Ensure this program is being followed and enforced.

Supervisor Responsibilities

- Attend all trainings.
- Determine the Air Quality Index (AQI) when your employees may be exposed to wildfire smoke.
- Check AQI for PM2.5 level before each shift and periodically monitor during the day when the AQI exceeds 151.
- Take action when an employee reports symptoms of poor air quality, such as providing clean air breaks or removing employees from poor AQI environments.
- **South Bay Grading will not perform work if the AQI exceeds 151.**



Employee Responsibilities

Employees working outdoors exposed to wildfire smoke have the following responsibilities:

- Understand and follow the requirements of this program.
- Attend all trainings.
- Talk to your doctor if you have health issues that may affect your ability to wear a respirator. If health issues exist, inform your employer.
- **SBG will not perform work when AQI PM2.5 is 151 or greater**
- Inform their supervisor if air quality is getting worse.
- Inform their supervisor if suffering from symptoms of poor air quality such as asthma attacks, chest pain, nausea, or trouble breathing.

Determining Exposure

Air quality is described using the US EPA's Air Quality Index (AQI) – the higher the number, the more polluted and hazardous the air. The current AQI is divided into the six categories shown in Table 1 below. Small particulates, known as PM2.5, pose the greatest health hazard because they can be inhaled deep into the lungs. Therefore, PM2.5 is the pollutant to monitor when working outdoors during wildfire activity.

<i>Air Quality Index (AQI) - Categories for PM2.5</i>	
<i>Index Value</i>	<i>Description of Air Quality</i>
0 to 50	Good
51 to 100	Moderate
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
151 to 200	Unhealthy
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy
301 to 500	Hazardous

Table 1 – AQI Categories, Title 40 of Federal Regulations, Part 58, Appendix G

Shawn Dean/President will determine the potential employee exposure to PM2.5 before each shift and periodically thereafter to protect employee health by **any** of the following methods:

- Obtain AQI forecasts and current AQI for PM2.5 directly from the Clime App by NOAA on smartphone.
- [AirNow.gov](https://www.airnow.gov)

Communication of Hazard

Shawn Dean/President will communicate wildfire smoke hazards in such a way to be understood by all employees. Information provided to employees will include the current AQI for PM2.5 and protective measures available to reduce wildfire smoke exposure.

Employees will be encouraged to inform Shawn Dean/President of worsening air quality and any adverse symptoms they may be experiencing due to wildfire smoke exposure such as asthma attacks, chest pain, nausea, or difficulty breathing.



Exposure Control

South Bay Grading will use the following controls to reduce employee exposure to PM2.5:

- Engineering controls will be used **first** to reduce employee exposure.
 - Enclosed buildings, structures, or vehicles where the air is mechanically filtered—air that is forced by a fan through a filtering material that traps particles and removes them from the air—will be provided when feasible.
 - The goal is to reduce exposure to an AQI of less than 151 or as much as possible.
- Administrative controls will be implemented if engineering controls are unable to reduce PM2.5 exposure to less than a current AQI of 151, such as:
 - Relocating work activities to a location where the current AQI for PM2.5 is lower, such as buildings or vehicles with filtered air
 - Changing work schedules
 - If conditions worsen and the AQI levels do not recommended outdoor work based on AQI levels, South Bay Grading will not perform work and the President will be informed of such conditions.

Note: Engineering and administrative controls do not apply to emergency situations when operations (such as medical, communications, utilities) are directly aiding firefighting or emergency response. In these situations, N95s will be provided for voluntary use when AQI for PM2.5 is equal or greater than 151 per section 5141.1(f)(4).

- Respiratory protection will be provided as follows:
 - **Voluntary use of a Respirator for exposure to work environments with an AQI of less than of 151. We will not be working if the AQI is 151 or greater.** If an employee is requesting a N-95 respirator, NIOSH approved N95 respirators (filtering face pieces) will be provided by South Bay Grading and the employee will be required to read and sign an OSHA form Appendix D.

Training

Training will be provided by Shawn Dean/President. to all employees and supervisors with potential exposure to wildfire smoke:

<https://youtu.be/Le3hI7xkUf0>

Additional information on the use of N95 respirators for protection from wildfire smoke can be found on the Cal/OSHA page [N95 Mask Commonly Asked Questions.](#)