

FHL WILDFIRE SMOKE RESPONSE PLAN

Air Quality Index (AQI)	FHL Procedures for Outdoor Work*
0 - 71	• Operations Manager prepares/updates this plan, including making provisions for prompt medical treatment and permitting that treatment without retaliation. • Operations Manager ensures personnel cell numbers are recorded in the FHL database and included in emergency notification lists. • Supervisors ensure personnel complete wildfire smoke training annually. • In primary work locations, supervisors post the EH&S advisory on voluntary use of respirators. • Operations Manager monitors the PM_{2.5} conditions and forecasts. • Stockroom Manager ensures a supply of N95 respirators are available in the Stockroom for employee use.
72 - 100	All of the above and: • Operations Manager notifies personnel of PM_{2.5} conditions. • Supervisors allow only personnel who have completed training to work outdoors. • Supervisors inform personnel that N95 respirators are available for voluntary use upon request and provide personnel with the EH&S advisory on voluntary use of respirators. • Supervisors may choose to implement some or all exposure controls.
101 - 350	All of the above and: • Supervisors implement exposure controls. • Supervisors directly distribute N95 respirators to all personnel for voluntary use, provide personnel with the EH&S advisory on voluntary use of respirators, and encourage personnel to use the respirators.
351 - 848	All of the above and: • Supervisors ensure workers experiencing adverse symptoms requiring medical attention are moved to a location that ensures sufficient clean air.
849 - 956	All of the above and: • Unless exposure at this level is for 15 minutes or less in a 24-hour period, supervisors discontinue all outdoor work for personnel who are not enrolled in the UW Respiratory Protection Plan • Supervisors require the use of fitted particulate respirators for personnel enrolled in the UW Respiratory Protection Plan.
957 or more	• Supervisors discontinue all outdoor work for their personnel.

*These procedures meet the requirements in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) [296-62-085](#) and [296-820](#).

1. Introduction

The purpose of the Wildfire Smoke Response Plan is to help prevent smoke-related illnesses and injuries. Supervisors must review it annually with their personnel. It details the procedures for FHL, meeting the requirements set forth in the [EH&S Wildfire Smoke Response Plan Template](#). For more information on smoke exposure and worker protection requirements, see the [EH&S Wildfire Smoke Safety page](#).

2. Scope

This plan covers FHL personnel in Maintenance, Marine Operations, and Custodial, all of whom perform some of their duties outdoors and may be exposed to wildfire smoke.

3. Roles & Responsibilities

FHL Operations Manager

- Develops and implements a Wildfire Smoke Response Plan. Reviews this plan with relevant personnel initially and annually.
- Communicates this plan and the training requirements to all personnel covered in the plan, and specifically informs supervisors of their responsibilities.
- Informs personnel that they are protected from retaliation for reporting signs or symptoms of wildfire smoke exposure, or for seeking medical care for wildfire smoke-related illnesses or symptoms resulting from outdoor work.
- Sends out notifications to personnel regarding AQI readings (see hazard communication).

Supervisors

- Ensures that their personnel complete the EH&S [Wildfire Smoke Safety training course](#) initially and annually, and keeps records of their trainings.
- Reviews this plan annually.
- Understands procedures for responding to reported or observed symptoms of smoke exposure in personnel.
- Understands the worker protections required at different AQI levels (see table above).
- Implements [exposure controls](#) based on AQI level per table above.

Personnel

- Complete the EH&S [Wildfire Smoke Safety training course](#) initially and annually.
- Follow the University and unit requirements for preventing wildfire smoke-related illnesses or symptoms.
- Report wildfire smoke-related health symptoms to your supervisor.
- Recognize and monitor yourself for [wildfire smoke health effects](#) and know your [personal risk factors](#) for wildfire smoke, which may include asthma, COPD, heart disease, diabetes, pregnancy, and respiratory infections among others.

4. Plans and Procedures for Protecting Worker Health & Safety

Training

Personnel working in FHL Maintenance, Marine Operations, and Custodial are required to complete the online [EH&S Wildfire Smoke safety training](#) initially and annually thereafter. FHL supervisors must ensure that personnel complete the trainings annually and keep records for those trainings.

Respiratory Protection

The FHL Stockroom Manager will maintain a stock of N95 respirators, and make them freely available for employee use. Respirators are used in addition to, not as a replacement for, other [exposure controls](#).

Provisions for prompt medical treatment

As noted in our First Aid Plan, while FHL relies on San Juan Island Emergency Medical Services for immediate medical assistance, the unit encourages first-aid training among its personnel. Refer to the First Aid Plan for a list of first-aid trained personnel and first aid kits on campus.

Hazard monitoring and communication

- FHL personnel covered in this plan will carry cell phones on them during work hours, allowing two-way communication for reporting air conditions and symptoms of smoke exposure.
- The FHL Operations Manager will monitor air conditions on IQAir¹ and, if installed in the future, a local AQI device on campus.
- The FHL Operations Manager will notify personnel via Omnilert advisories when at least two consecutive PM2.5 readings or forecasted readings cross a threshold (in either direction) listed in Table 1.

Exposure controls

When the current AQI is at 101 or higher where work is occurring, supervisors are required to implement effective exposure controls whenever feasible. At AQI levels between 72 and 100, supervisors may choose to implement some controls.

Controls to be implemented at FHL include:

- Providing rest areas in Lab 10, Lab 9, the Commons, or a room with a portable air purifier (Fernald Classroom, Front Office, Stockroom).
- Relocating portable air purifiers to enclosed areas where personnel are working.
- Relocating work indoors (e.g. to the Maintenance Shop, offices, or housing units).
- Changing work schedules so outdoor work can occur when the AQI is lower.
- Avoiding or reducing work that creates additional exposures to dust, fumes, or smoke.
- Reducing the amount of work that involves physical exertion.

- Providing additional rest periods.
- Monitoring personnel for exposure symptoms.

5. Responding to Wildfire Smoke-related Illness

Supervisors should encourage personnel to let them (or someone nearby) know if they or a co-worker are experiencing symptoms of wildfire smoke-related illness, so immediate action can be taken. Supervisors may not retaliate against personnel who seek medical treatment for symptoms. If treatment is sought, supervisors should ensure the protection of personal health information to the extent possible.

FHL response procedures

1. For serious symptoms, the individual or someone nearby should call San Juan Island Emergency Medical Services (911) and send another individual to stand at the entrance to the FHL campus to direct EMS when they arrive.
2. If the AQI is above 350, the individual should be moved to one of the following indoor spaces with air filtration systems: Lab 10, Lab 9, the Commons, or a room with portable air purifier (Fernald Classroom, Front Office).
3. If the symptoms do not appear to warrant a call to emergency services, the individual's supervisor or a designee will stay in contact with the individual to monitor their recovery and assess the need to contact emergency medical services.
4. If the individual receives medical attention, they should request written authorization from the healthcare provider indicating whether the worker can return to work, and if so, whether there are any restrictions or limitations.
5. If the individual receives medical attention, the individual or their supervisor must submit a report of the incident within 24 hours to EH&S via the UW's [Online Accident Reporting System \(OARS\)](#). Any inpatient hospitalization requires immediate notification to EH&S.

FOOTNOTES

1. IQAir reports on data from tens of devices in San Juan County, whereas the reliable sources listed by EH&S – sites and apps provided by the EPA and WA Dept of Ecology – currently report on data from a total of zero or one device in the county, respectively.