



# Wildfire Resources for Schools

March 14, 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



## Environmental Health and Safety

TITLE (PUBLISHING AGENCY)	THUMBNAIL	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>Memo: Get Smart about Wildfire Smoke-Guidelines for Schools and Wildfire Smoke (California Department of Education)</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Click Thumbnail</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State guidance for schools during wildfire season. Includes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air Quality Index &amp; Activity Recommendations</li> <li>Resources for tracking Air Quality Information</li> <li>Information about masks and recommendations</li> <li>Recommendations for ensuring cleaner air at school</li> <li>Considerations for districts before closing a school</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>During Wildfires When to Take Precautions (South Coast AQMD)</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Click Thumbnail</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One pager visually highlighting when to take precautions during wildfires</li> </ul>

## Healthy Indoor Air Quality in Schools (United States Environmental Protection Agency)

**Healthy Indoor Air Quality in Schools**

Indoor air pollution is ranked among the top five environmental risks to public health. Good indoor air quality (IAQ) contributes to a favorable environment for students, improved teacher and staff performance and a sense of comfort, health and well-being. In coordination, these elements empower schools in meeting their core mission — educating children.

Scan the QR Codes below to access each resource, or scan the code to the right to explore EPA's Creating Healthy Indoor Air Quality in Schools website.

**Framework for Effective School IAQ Management**  
This framework provides detailed guidance on the proven strategies, organizational approaches, and leadership roles that are fundamental to school IAQ management effectiveness.

**IAQ Tools for Schools Action Kit**  
This Action Kit shows schools how to carry out a practical plan to improve indoor air problems at little or no cost using straightforward activities and job-based staff. It provides best practices, industry guidelines, sample policies, and a sample IAQ management plan.

**IAQ Tools for Schools Preventative Maintenance Guidance Document**  
This guide walks readers through straightforward steps to identify and implement a sustainable indoor air quality preventative maintenance plan for their school districts.

**On-Demand Training Webinars**  
The IAQ Tools for Schools Program hosts web-based training that provide school district staff across the country with the knowledge needed to start, improve or sustain an IAQ school management program. Pre-recorded webinars are available in the following topic series:

[Click Thumbnail](#)

- Framework for Effective School Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Management
- IAQ Tools for Schools Action Kit
- IAQ Tools for Schools Preventative Maintenance Guidance Document
- On-Demand Training Webinars

## Workplace Health & Safety: Wildfire Smoke (DPH)

**WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY: WILDFIRE SMOKE**

**WHO IS AT RISK**  
Workers who are outdoors, in enclosed structures, or in vehicles that do not have air filtration systems are at higher risk of being exposed to wildfire smoke, which pollutes workplaces.

**WILDFIRE SMOKE IS DANGEROUS**  
Wildfire smoke can harm people through its heat, irritants, soot, ash, chemicals, oils, or heavy smoke that contains gases and tiny particles known as particulate matter (PM). You can't see PM, it's everywhere and can be inhaled deep into the lungs, enter the bloodstream, and circulate throughout the body.

**HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF**  
A key to protect yourself when wildfire smoke is present is to reduce exposure to the smoke, limiting the amount of smoke you inhale.

**LABOR CODE 655 PROTECTS WORKERS FROM RETALIATION FOR REPORTING WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS TO CALIFORNIA. 1 (800) 959-6927**

**YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO**

- Free NIOSH-approved N95 respirators provided. Free of charge by employers (employees, check your local type of occupational trade for possible additional protection from the PM found in wildfire smoke)
- Check or read for the Air Quality Index (AQI)
- Use work provided to better manage with air filtration or which is equipped with air filtration, if practical.
- Have work schedules changed, lower work intensity and longer rest periods.
- Inform us as a that is unsafe or hazardous to you or coworkers in your County (DOSH)
- Obtain medical treatment.
- Be trained about the health effects of wildfire smoke.

**WILDFIRE SMOKE EXPOSURE SYMPTOMS**

- Irritation or sore throat, eyes, nose, or throat
- Chest pain
- Headaches
- Asthma attacks
- Regular medication
- Chronic bronchitis
- Difficulty breathing
- Reduced lung function
- Headaches or dizziness
- Cough, phlegm, wheezing

Adults over 65 years of age, children, and individuals with pre-existing health conditions are at higher risk of negative health effects from exposure to wildfire smoke.

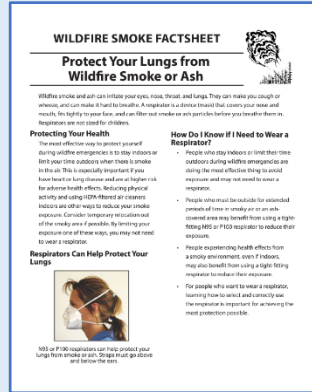
For more information, please visit:  
<https://www.cdph.ca/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Imz/021515.aspx>  
<https://www.cdph.ca/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Imz/021515.aspx>  
<https://www.cdph.ca/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Imz/021515.aspx>

OWHS Wildfire Safety Basics (English)

[Click Thumbnail](#)

- Information for workers on workplace hazards and protection measures

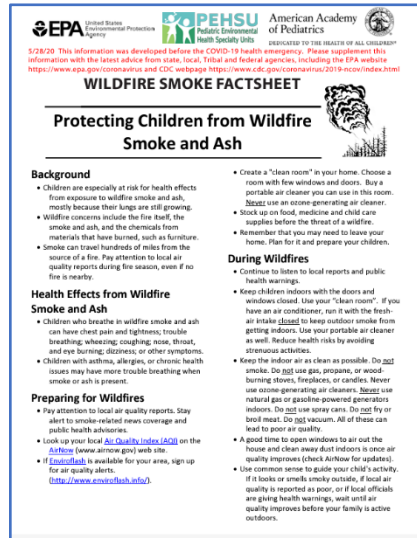
**Wildfire Smoke Factsheet: Protect Your Lungs from Wildfire Smoke or Ash (United States Environmental Protection Agency)**



[Click Thumbnail](#)

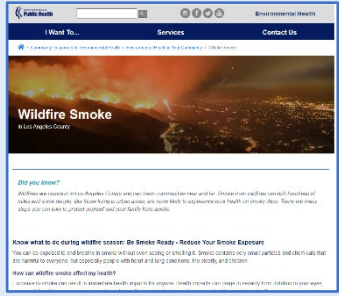
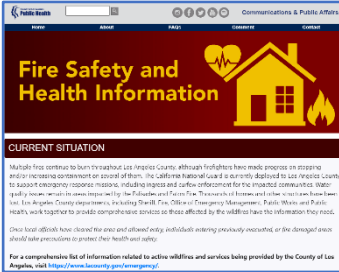
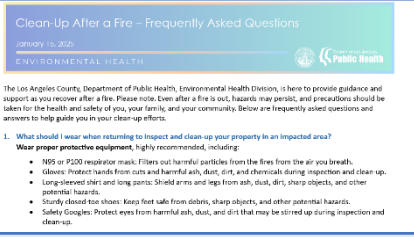
- Information on types of respirators and how to select the correct respirator
- [Available in multiple languages](#)

**Wildfire Smoke Factsheet: Protecting Children from Wildfire Smoke and Ash (United States Environmental Protection Agency)**



[Click Thumbnail](#)

- Information on reducing children’s exposure to smoke and ash before, during, and after a fire

<p><b>Wildfire Smoke in Los Angeles County (DPH)</b></p>	 <p><a href="#">Click Thumbnail</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information for staying safe during wildfire season. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How wildfire smoke affects health</li> <li>Tips to stay safe on smoky days</li> <li>Who is most sensitive to wildfire smoke</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Fire Safety and Health Information (DPH)</b></p>	 <p><a href="#">Click Thumbnail</a></p>	<p>Updated information on current wildfire situation. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Links to info related to active wildfires and services provided by the County</li> <li>Recovery Resources</li> <li>News and Updates</li> <li>Protecting Health After a Fire</li> <li>Fact sheets (in multiple languages) and links to <a href="#">Environmental Health’s Fire Recovery Guidance for Residents and Businesses</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Clean-Up After a Fire-Frequently Asked Questions (DPH)</b></p>	 <p><a href="#">Click Thumbnail</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses to frequently asked questions about cleaning up property after a fire including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What to wear when inspecting and cleaning areas</li> <li>How to ventilate and clean the air for homes that have ash/smoke inside</li> <li>Information on water notices and advisories</li> <li>Cleaning yards and patios</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

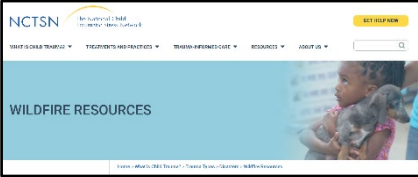

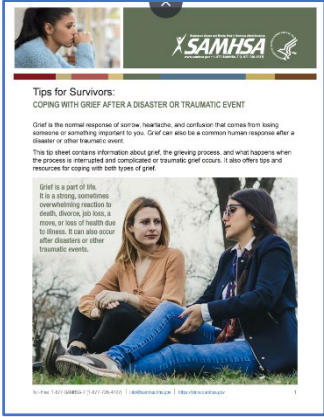
**Returning Home After a Fire-Ash  
Clean-up in Areas Without Fire  
Damage (DPH)**



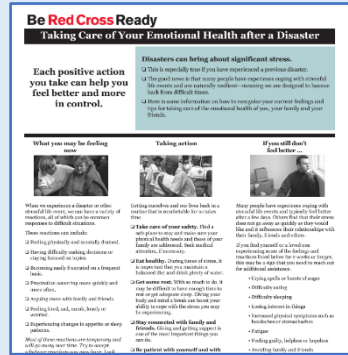
- Information about how to safely clean after a fire
- Includes information about food and water safety
- [Available in multiple languages](#)

**Emotional Health and Support**

TITLE/PUBLISHING AGENCY	THUMBNAIL	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>Coping with Trauma and Stress in the Face of Wildfires: Tips for Early Childhood Professionals (ZERO to THREE)</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Click Thumbnail</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article with tips for early childhood professionals who work with babies, toddlers, and their caregivers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Coping After a Natural Disaster (ZERO to THREE)</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Click Thumbnail</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource for parents of babies and toddlers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Be PREPARED (UCLA Center of Excellence and Department of Mental Health)</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Click Thumbnail</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tipsheet to support parents and caregiver in speaking with their kids about difficult topics</li> </ul>

<p><b>Wildfire Resources (National Childhood Traumatic Stress Network)</b></p>	 <p><a href="#">Click Thumbnail</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landing page for a variety of resources to help children, families, and communities navigate what they see and hear after a disaster, acknowledge their feelings, and find ways to cope together</li> <li>• Materials available in English and Spanish</li> </ul>
<p><b>Helping Children After a Wildfire: Tips for Caregivers and Teachers (National Association of School Psychologists)</b></p>	 <p><a href="#">Click Thumbnail</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information for caregivers and teachers on how to help children after a wildfire. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Issues and challenges associated with wildfires</li> <li>○ Possible reactions of children and youth to wildfires</li> <li>○ Important information for teachers and parents immediately after a wildfire</li> <li>○ Specific information for schools</li> <li>○ Helping children adjust to relocation after a wildfire</li> <li>○ Internet Resources</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Coping with Grief After a Disaster or Traumatic Event (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA))</b></p>	 <p><a href="#">Click Thumbnail</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains information about grief, the grieving process, and what happens when the process is interrupted</li> <li>• Includes tips and resources for coping with grief</li> </ul>

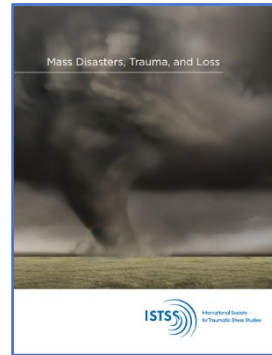
**Taking Care of Your Emotional Health after a Disaster (American Red Cross)**



[Click Thumbnail](#)

- Information about how to recognize current feelings and taking care of the emotional health of yourself and others

**Mass Disasters, Trauma, and Loss (International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies)**



[Click Thumbnail](#)

- Information includes:
  - What to expect after experiencing a disaster
  - Factors increasing the risk of lasting vulnerability
  - How to reduce vulnerability to serious emotional reactions and achieve the best recovery from disaster stress
  - Deciding if professional help is needed
  - Where to go for help

**Disaster Distress Helpline (SAMHSA)**



[Click Thumbnail](#)

- National hotline that provides year-round disaster crisis counseling
- Toll-free, multilingual, crisis support service available 24/7 to all residents in the U.S.
- Anyone can call for themselves or on behalf of someone else
- Call or text 1-800-985-5990