2020 Fire Preparedness Meeting

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2020: Two Concurrent Challenges

Wildfire Season

COVID-19 Pandemic
Smoke Messaging: Key Priorities

Clarity

Avoid Confusion

Consistency
Best Practices

• Develop talking points early
• Know your audience
  • How do they get information?
  • Use plain language
• Make it visual
• Build relationships
• Work together!
Smoke Messaging at CARB

STAY INSIDE!
Smoke Messaging at CARB

- New and updated infographics coming soon
- CARB website & social media
Smoke Messaging Resources

- **Clean Air Rooms Campaign**
- **Santa Barbara County APCD**

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**CLEAN INDOOR AIR DURING WILDFIRES**
Smoke and ash from wildfires contain very small particles known as particulate matter. These particles harm the lungs and heart, and increase coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, chest pain, noses, and to a severe irritation, respiratory illness. Kids, seniors, pregnant women, and people with heart or lung disease are especially sensitive. The best protection against wildfire smoke is to stay indoors as much as possible when smoke is present. Before the next wildfire, take steps to ensure your family will have safe indoor air quality.

**How to Choose & Use an Air Purifier**
- **HEPA Filters:** Use HEPA filters. Air purifiers can remove particulate matter as small as 0.1 micron.
- **Clean Air for Your Home:** Consider the air purifiers for different room sizes. A 400 sq ft purifier for a one-bedroom gives 0.15 microns approximately 85%.

Make sure it doesn't create ozone. Find a list of safe options online: [www.ore.org/purifiers](http://www.ore.org/purifiers)

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**How to Make Your Own HEPA Air Purifier**
**STEP 1: MATERIALS**
- Purchase the following items:
  - 30" wide HEPA filters or similar.
  - Drill 5/8" holes in the sides of the filters.

**STEP 2: ASSEMBLE**
- Cut the filter to fit the area of the room you want to cover. Check filter for the direction of the air flow (indicated by the arrow).

**STEP 3: MAINTENANCE**
- Replace the filter every two months of use during wildfires.

**FOR SAFETY, FOLLOW THESE PRECAUTIONS:**
- Don’t leave the device unattended.
- Turn off the fan while cleaning.
- When the fan is reinstalled, treat the device as new.

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**Minimizing Sources of Indoor Air Pollution**
- Ventilate if smoke or fire is visible.
- Don’t smoke indoors.
- Keep windows and doors closed.
- Use your range hood while cooking.

**If temps are high and there is no way to keep the home cool with windows and doors shut, consider temporarily relocating until conditions improve.**
Smoke Messaging Resources

- ALERTWildfire Camera Network
- University Consortium Project (UNR, UCSD, UO)
Smoke Messaging Resources

• Wildfire Smoke and COVID-19: FAQ Document
• Published by USDA (USFS & CDC)
Smoke Messaging Resources

- Wildfire Guide Post-Publication Updates
- US EPA and CDC

Wildfire Guide Post-Publication Updates

This web page is for Wildfire Smoke Guide authors and contributors that post fact sheets, web links, and other new information developed since 2019. The goal is to provide public health officials with the latest information between revisions of the Guide.

**Wildfire Preparedness and Response during COVID-19**

- CDC - Wildfire Smoke and COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions and Resources for Air Resource Advisors and Other Environmental Health Professionals
- CDC - COVID-19 Considerations for Cleaner Air Shelters and Cleaner Air Spaces to Protect the Public from Wildfire Smoke
- CDC - Natural Disasters and Severe Weather
- CDC - Interim Guidance for General Population Disaster Shelters During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- CDC - FAQs for Wildland Firefighters
- CDC - Environmental Health Assessment Form for Disaster Shelters

**Indoor Air Quality and COVID-19**

- EPA - Frequent Questions about Indoor Air and Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Other Smoke and COVID-19 Related Materials
- CDC - Open Burning during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Due to the intersection of wildfire smoke and COVID-19 during the pandemic, below are general resources from CDC about COVID-19:

- How to protect yourself and what to do if you are sick
- COVID-19 Communication Materials (posters, handouts, flyers, videos)
Smoke Messaging Resources

- Smoke-Ready Toolbox
- US EPA
Smoke Messaging Resources

- California Smoke Blog
California Smoke Spotter App

• Designed to track smoke from Prescribed Fires
• Shows smoke from all sources, including wildfires
• Currently in testing phase
• Tentative launch: August (subject to change)