



Employer Notice: Worker Safety in Wildfire Regions and Distribution Locations for N95 Masks

November 14, 2018

Smoke from wildfires contains chemicals, gases and fine particles that can harm health. The greatest hazard comes from breathing fine particles, which can reduce lung function, worsen asthma and other existing heart and lung conditions, and cause coughing, wheezing and difficulty breathing.

Guidance for employers and workers on working safely in conditions with heavy smoke caused by the wildfires [is available on Cal/OSHA's web page](#), including [information for protecting outdoor workers](#), [details on how to protect indoor workers from outdoor air pollution](#), and [frequently asked questions about N95 masks](#).

When employees are working outdoors where the air is affected by wildfire smoke, employers are required by Cal/OSHA's standards on [Control of Harmful Exposure to Employees](#) and [Respiratory Protection](#) to determine if the outdoor air is a "harmful exposure" to employees. Exposure is harmful when the pollution or contaminants in the air cause (or are likely to cause) injury, illness, disease, impairment or loss of function.

Local air quality districts provide information on outdoor air that can assist employers in determining if the outside air is harmful to employees. Employers should pay special attention when the outdoor air quality for airborne particles is "unhealthy," "very unhealthy," or "hazardous." The outdoor air quality is posted at the U.S. EPA website [airnow.gov](#).

When exposure to wildfire smoke is considered harmful, employers are required to take the following measures to protect workers:

- Implement feasible modifications to the workplace to reduce exposure. Examples include providing enclosed structures or vehicles for employees to work in, where the air is filtered.
- Implement practicable changes to work procedures or schedules. Examples include changing the location where employees work or reducing the amount of time they work outdoors.
- Provide proper respiratory protection equipment, such as disposable respirators, if the previous measures are not feasible or do not prevent harmful exposures.
 - To filter out fine particles, respirators must be labeled N-95, N-99, N-100, R-95, P-95, P-99, or P-100, and must be labeled as approved by the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).



The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services has provided the [following information on the distribution of N95 respirator masks](#), for which availability may be limited. Please refer to their [newsroom](#) for updates.

<p>Sacramento County Masks are available free of charge at all City of Sacramento fire stations except Station 16</p>	<p>Butte County Oroville Municipal Auditorium 1200 Myers Street Oroville</p>
<p>Butte County Torres Shelter 101 Silver Dollar Way Chico</p>	<p>Butte County Jesus Center 1297 Park Avenue Chico</p>
<p>Butte County Esplanade House 181 E Shasta Avenue Chico</p>	<p>Butte County 6th Street Center for Youth 130 W 6th Street Chico</p>
<p>Butte County Walmart 2044 Forest Avenue Chico</p>	<p>Butte County FoodMaxx 2051 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Pkwy Chico</p>
<p>Butte County Target 1951 E 20th Street Chico</p>	<p>Butte County Raley’s 211 W East Avenue Chico</p>
<p>Butte County Target 1951 E 20th Street Chico</p>	<p>Butte County Raley’s 211 W East Avenue Chico</p>
<p>Butte County Target 1951 E 20th Street Chico</p>	<p>Butte County Raley’s 211 W East Avenue Chico</p>
<p>Butte County Raley’s 2485 Notre Dame Boulevard Chico</p>	<p>Butte County Safeway 1366 East Avenue Chico</p>



<p>Butte County Safeway 720 Mangrove Avenue Chico</p>	<p>Butte County Grocery Outlet 2157 Pillsbury Road Chico</p>
<p>Butte County New Earth Market 864 East Avenue Chico</p>	<p>Butte County Winco Foods 2060 East 20th Street Chico</p>
<p>Butte County Costco Wholesale 2100 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway Chico</p>	<p>Butte County Dollar General 9386 Midway Durham</p>
<p>Butte County Durham Country Market 2381 Durham-Dayton Highway Durham</p>	<p>Butte County Safeway 1596 CA-99 Gridley</p>
<p>Butte County Dollar General 1480 CA-99 Gridley</p>	<p>Butte County SAVMOR Foods 540 Washington Street Gridley</p>
<p>Butte County Oroville Rescue Mission 4250 Lincoln Boulevard Oroville</p>	<p>Butte County Collins & Denny Market 434 Plumas Avenue Oroville</p>
<p>Butte County Dollar General 5240 Olive Highway Oroville</p>	<p>Butte County Raley's 2325 Myers Street Oroville</p>
<p>Butte County Dollar General 2084 3rd Street Oroville</p>	<p>Butte County Walmart 465 Cal Oak Road Oroville</p>
<p>Butte County Grocery Outlet 1060 Oroville Dam Boulevard East Oroville</p>	<p>Ventura County Goebel Senior Adult Center 1385 E. Janss Rd Thousand Oaks</p>
<p>Ventura County Thousand Oaks Teen Center 1375 E. Janss Rd Thousand Oaks</p>	<p>Ventura County Rancho Santa Susana Recreation Center 5005 Unit C Los Angeles Ave. Simi Valley</p>



<p>Ventura County Borchard Community Center 190 N Reino Road Newbury Park</p>	<p>Ventura County Camarillo Community Center 1605 E Burnley Street Camarillo</p>
<p>Ventura County North Oxnard Public Health 2240 E. Gonzales Road Oxnard</p>	<p>Ventura County South Oxnard Public Health 2500 S. "C" Street Oxnard</p>
<p>Ventura County Channel Islands Harbor Master 3900 Pelican Way Oxnard</p>	<p>Ventura County Las Posas Family Medical Group 3801 Las Posas, Suite 214 Camarillo</p>
<p>Ventura County Sierra Vista Family Medical Clinic 2700 E Los Angeles Avenue Simi Valley</p>	<p>Ventura County Moorpark Family Medical Clinic 612 Spring Road Building A Moorpark</p>
<p>Ventura County Adventist Health Simi Valley 2975 Sycamore Drive Simi Valley</p>	<p>Ventura County Los Robles Regional Medical Center 215 W. Janss Road Thousand Oaks</p>
<p>Ventura County St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital 2309 Antonio Avenue Camarillo</p>	<p>Ventura County St. John's Regional Medical Center 1600 N. Rose Avenue Oxnard</p>
<p>Los Angeles County Taft Charter High School 5461 Winnetka Avenue Woodland Hills</p>	<p>Los Angeles County Canoga Park Senior High School 6850 Topanga Canyon Boulevard Canoga Park</p>
<p>Los Angeles County Palisades Charter High School 15777 Bowdoin Street Pacific Palisades</p>	<p>Los Angeles County Pierce College 7100 El Rancho Drive Woodland Hills</p>