



July 7, 2025

July Safety Tip

Wildfire Smoke and Employee Health

Agencies need to be aware that wildfire smoke may adversely impact the health of their employees and need to be prepared to take action to limit exposure. Implementing safety measures to account for poor air quality leads to a healthier workforce and fewer workers' compensation claims.



Tips for Keeping Employees Healthy During Poor Air Quality

- **Workplace Controls** - Consider changing work schedules and/or work location, reducing levels of strenuous physical activity, and requiring frequent breaks.
- **Reduce Exposure** - Implement controls to reduce exposure to poor air quality, such as providing enclosed structures or vehicles where the air is filtered for employees to work or take breaks in.
- **Hydration** - Wildfire smoke can contribute to the effects of heat stress. Provide cool drinking water on the work site and encourage employees working outdoors to drink water every 15 to 20 minutes even if they aren't feeling thirsty.
- **Communication** - Implement a system for communicating about the health risks of wildfire smoke exposure in an easy to understand manner. Create a supportive environment for employees to express health concerns and, if applicable, encourage them to talk to a health care professional.

Resources

- Check the Air Quality In Your Area at todaysair.mt.gov
- [CDC Guidance on Wildland Fire Smoke](#)

WCMB is here to help you and your team establish safety precautions for poor air quality days. Contact us at WCMB@mt.gov.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION MANAGEMENT BUREAU

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