

Washington Air Quality Advisory (WAQA) Guidance for Public Health Actions

Health Advisory Category Forecasted 24-Hour Average or NowCast PM _{2.5} Concentration (µg/m ³)	Recommended Public Health Actions For use with Washington Air Quality Advisory PM _{2.5} NowCast values and forecasted 24 hour PM _{2.5} concentrations.
<p style="text-align: center;">Good</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PM_{2.5} 0 - 12.0</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If smoke incident is forecasted in your area, review the Washington Wildfire Response document for Severe Smoke Episodes and the Wildfire Smoke Guide for Public Health Officials. More health tips on the Department of Health Smoke From Fires website. More information about wildfire and air quality at WA Smoke.
<p style="text-align: center;">Moderate</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PM_{2.5} 12.1 – 20.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute information to public health partners and the public. • Focus on identifying and getting information to vulnerable populations. • Refer people to the WA Smoke Blog for more information about status of wildfires. • Provide information about steps to take with health advisory categories: DOH Washington Air Quality Advisory Graphic (English).
<p style="text-align: center;">Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PM_{2.5} 20.5 – 35.4</p>	<p>Above recommendations, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue press release, identify sensitive groups and encourage them to reduce exposure. • For extended duration of smoke recommend spending time in a cleaner air setting in the community (air-conditioned library) or leaving the area until air quality improves. • For extended duration of smoke, open a cleaner air shelter for sensitive groups. If school is in session, refer to the DOH Air Pollution and School Activities Guide.
<p style="text-align: center;">Unhealthy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PM_{2.5} 35.5 – 80.4</p>	<p>Above recommendations, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend cancelling children's outdoor athletic events and practices, or moving them indoors or to an outdoor space with good air quality. • Recommend the public limit strenuous outdoor activities. • Recommend that sensitive groups shelter-in-place, spend time in a cleaner air setting in the community (air-conditioned library) or leave the area until air quality improves. • For extended duration of smoke, open and publicize cleaner air shelters for sensitive groups.
<p style="text-align: center;">Very Unhealthy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PM_{2.5} 80.5 – 150.4</p>	<p>Above recommendations, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider cancelling outdoor public events and activities. • Recommend shelter-in-place for the general population. • Share information about periods of improved air quality to guide essential outdoor activity and ventilation of dwellings.
<p style="text-align: center;">Hazardous</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PM_{2.5}: >150.4</p>	<p>Above recommendations, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancel outdoor public events and activities. • If school is in session, discuss school closure with administrators if indoor air cannot be kept cleaner. • Recommend voluntary evacuation for sensitive groups.