

WILDFIRE RESPONSE FROM THE OCCUPATIONAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVE
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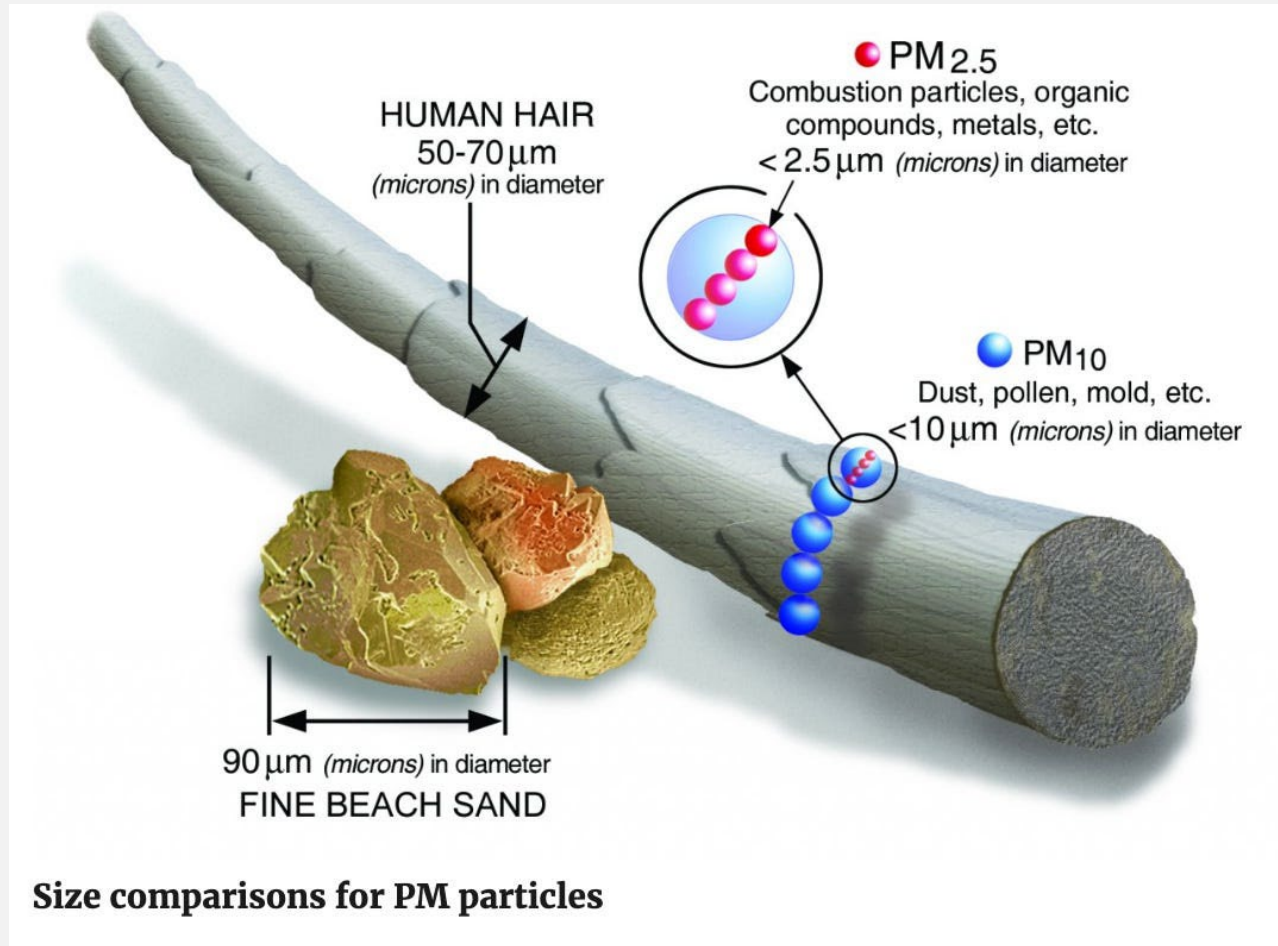








THIS GRAPHIC FROM THE US EPA SHOWS JUST HOW SMALL PM 2.5 PARTICLES ARE (2.5 THOUSANDTHS OF A MILLIMETER). THAT'S WHY WE NEED THE RIGHT MASKS AND FILTERS, AND WHY BANDANAS DON'T WORK.



- **Measures that keep us from inhaling tiny particles and toxins in smoke—from N95 masks and portable air cleaners to community clean air shelters—protect us against a wide range of harms at once. That's good news, because the steps are relatively simple.**

Smoke Ready California



Check Local AQI

Check the local air quality index and listen to local officials.



Avoid Breathing Smoke

Smoke can hurt eyes, irritate lungs and worsen chronic heart and lung disease.



Use N95 Masks

Use N95 masks marked NIOSH for the best possible protection.



MERV 13+ Air Filters

Install a high-efficiency filter with a MERV 13 rating or higher.



CARB-Certified Air Cleaners

Using CARB-certified air cleaners can greatly reduce indoor particle levels to further reduce impacts from smoke.



Clean Air Space

The best way to avoid wildfire smoke is to stay indoors.



WILDFIRE SEASON IS RAMPING UP. REMEMBER TO TAKE THESE STEPS:

- **Wear N-95 Masks outdoors when smoke is present – But need Medical Clearance.**
- **Monitor air quality for your region([AirNow.gov](https://www.airnow.gov))**
- **When air quality is poor, stay indoors with windows closed.**
- **Use proper air quality as recommended by the California Air Resources Board.**

Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern	Colors
<i>When the AQI is in this range:</i>	<i>...air quality conditions are:</i>	<i>...as symbolized by this color:</i>
0 to 50	Good	Green
51 to 100	Moderate	Yellow
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Red
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple
301 to 500	Hazardous	Maroon

WILDFIRE SMOKE FACTSHEET

Protect Your Lungs from Wildfire Smoke or Ash



Wildfire smoke and ash can irritate your eyes, nose, throat, and lungs. They can make you cough or wheeze, and can make it hard to breathe. A respirator is a device (mask) that covers your nose and mouth, fits tightly to your face, and can filter out smoke or ash particles before you breathe them in. Respirators are not sized for children.

Protecting Your Health

The most effective way to protect yourself during wildfire emergencies is to stay indoors or limit your time outdoors when there is smoke in the air. This is especially important if you

How Do I Know if I Need to Wear a Respirator?

- People who stay indoors or limit their time outdoors during wildfire emergencies are doing the most effective thing to avoid

Wildfire Smoke is a complex and emerging topic of public health review and study.

Research is showing that wildfire smoke increases overall airborne particulate concentrations, possibly in the mid to long-term timeframe.

Research into other possible health effects of wildfire smoke has begun and will certainly expand.

Wildfires: Immediate vs. Long-Term Effects

Distinctions between public health and wildfire impact on structures and their systems, mechanical(HVAC), electrical, contents, and artwork.

WILDFIRES

BASIC DEFINITIONS:

- **Wildfire v Urban Fire**
- **Pressurized v Non-Pressurized Fires**
- **Proximity to the actual fire event**
- **Wildfires byproducts: Char, Soot, Ash, Metals, Lead, Arsenic, Asbestos**
- **Other Compounds**
- **Testing: Surface, Air, Industrial Hygiene, Applicability to Fire Events & Misapplication**
- **Concept of emergency response and project management approach to the remediation phase of response to losses**
- **Remediation: Hard surfaces, Contents, soft goods and clothing, mattresses, Art, Electronics.**
- **To paint or not to paint**

- **Training/Presentation for CAT & EGA/adjusting team members**
- **Regulatory update, CA Insurance Commissioner wildfire task force, CA SB 334, LA County DPH, CADPH**
- **Presentation to in house attorneys (reasons why)**

EMERGENCY RESOURCES

- NEW: [LA County Recovers](#) - Track your right of entry form, learn about fire debris removal, find resources to rebuild and get assistance with permit needs.
- County of Los Angeles | Emergency lacounty.gov/emergency
- [California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection | CAL FIRE](#)
- Monitor weather conditions on the [National Weather Service website](#) or local news outlets.
- L.A. County Public Works | [Debris Removal](#) – L.A. County Public Works can assist with debris and fallen tree removal. Call 800-675-HELP.
- Urgent requests can be reported 24/7 by calling 800-675-4357.
- Be Disaster Ready, California | [Prepare for Emergencies](#)
- California Department of Social Services | [Los Angeles County](#)
- California Department of Food and Agriculture | [Wildfire Recovery Resources](#)
- California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services | [State Recovery Resources](#)
- [California Government LA Wildfires Page](#)
- California Department of Education (CDE) - [2025 California Wildfire Resources](#)
- CDE SupplyBank.org | [Disaster Relief Fund](#)