



NWHRN LTC Sector

May 28th, 2025

Air Quality

Emergency Response Protocol

Wildfire Smoke and Air Quality

With the summer season approaching, wildfire smoke is a secondary hazard to be aware of.

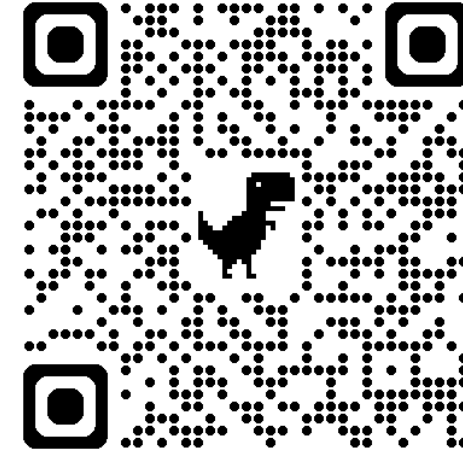
Impacts all areas of the state, not just immediate wildfire areas.

Among the risk groups are those over 65, people with lung diseases, heart problems, diabetes, among others.

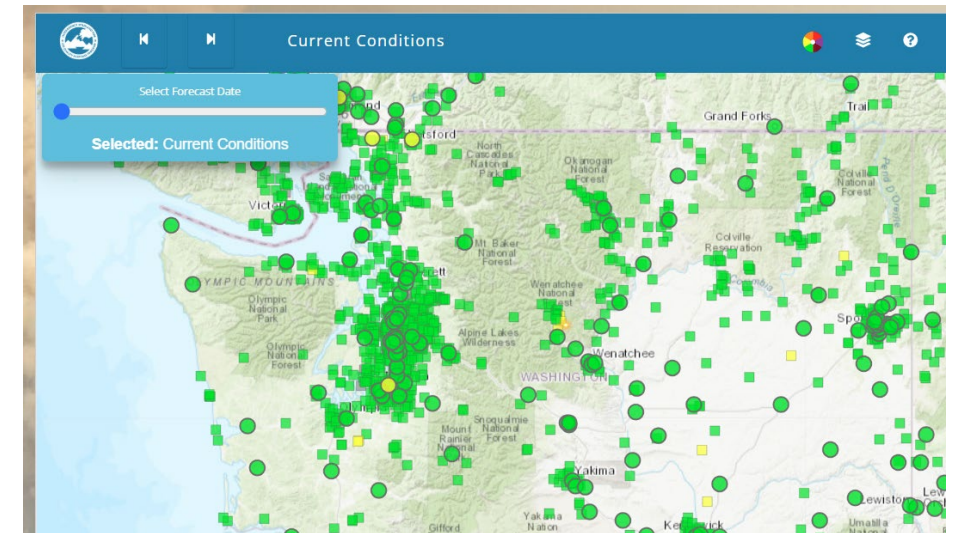
This presentation will briefly cover monitoring air quality, equipment & supplies, maintaining indoor air quality, and resident safety.

Dear Provider Letter(s) sent 05/2024 (wildfire smoke) and 3/2025 (volcanic ash) covered the topic in more depth.

Monitoring Air Quality



- Washington Smoke Blog for outdoor air quality (QR Code to right).
- Consider purchasing indoor air quality monitor.
- Sign up for emergency alerts for your areas.

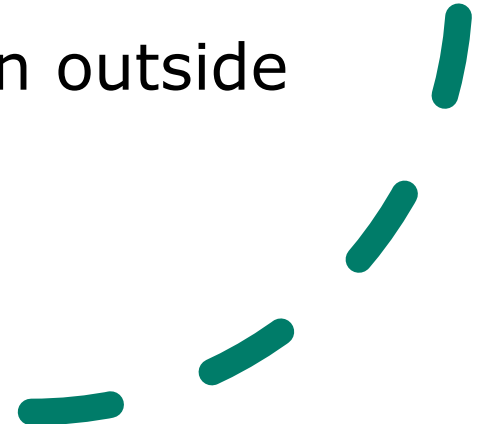


Equipment & Supplies

- Make purchases as early as possible. During events, there can be shortages as
- Consider purchases of N95 respirators, HEPA vacuums, air monitors, air filters, and indoor air cleaners.
 - Verify air filters for HVAC systems have appropriate ratings.
- During times of high smoke concentration, regularly check and replace as needed.

Managing Indoor Air Quality

- Limit indoor pollutants.
 - Smoking/vaping
 - Gas & wood stoves
 - Frying foods
 - Candles/incense
- Use of HEPA filtered vacuum cleaners.
- Check seals around doors and windows.
- Keep windows and doors closed when air quality drops.
- Turn off ventilation that pulls in outside air.



Ensure Resident Safety



When air quality drops (moderate or higher), limit time outdoors.

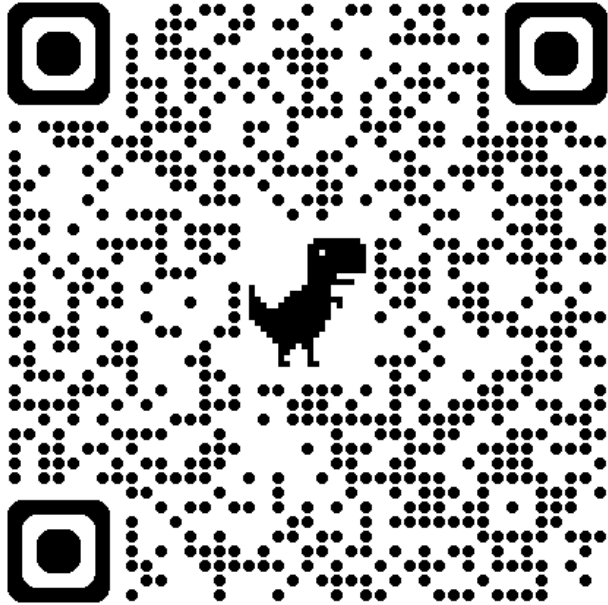


Maintain stock of N95 respirators.

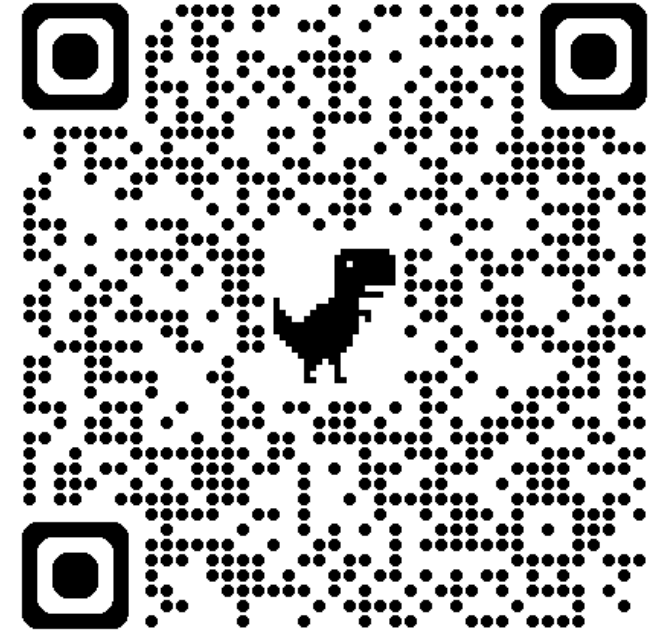


Identify residents at risk (respiratory illnesses other underlying conditions).

Questions, Resources



Dear Provider Letter: Wildfire Smoke



Dear Provider Letter: Volcanic Ashfall



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Questions?

- Richard.Freed@dshs.wa.gov
- <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/residential-care-services/resources-long-term-care-facilities-emergency-planning>
- Available for any assistance in developing Emergency Preparedness programs in LTC settings.

