

Table 3. Recommended Actions for Public Health Officials^{2,3}

AQI Category (AQI Values)	PM2.5 or PM10 Levels (ug/m ³)			Visibility - Arid Conditions (miles)	Recommended Actions
	1-3hr avg	8 hr avg	24 hr avg ¹		
Good (0 to 50)	0 – 38	0 – 22	0 – 12	≥ 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If smoke event forecast, implement communication plan
Moderate (51 to 100)	39 – 88	23 – 50	12.1 – 35.4	6 – 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue public service announcements (PSAs) advising public about health effects and symptoms and ways to reduce exposure Distribute information about exposure avoidance
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101 to 150)	89 – 138	51 – 79	35.5– 55.4	3 – 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If smoke event projected to be prolonged, evaluate and notify possible sites for cleaner air shelters If smoke event projected to be prolonged, prepare evacuation plans
Unhealthy (151 to 200)	139 – 351	80 – 200	55.5 – 150.4	1.5 – 2.75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider “Smoke Day” for schools (i.e., no school that day), possibly based on school environment and travel considerations Consider canceling public events, based on public health and travel considerations
Very Unhealthy (201 to 300)	352 – 526	201 – 300	150.5 – 250.4	1 – 1.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider closing some or all schools (Newer schools with a central air cleaning filter may be more protective than older, leakier homes. See “Closures”, below.) Cancel outdoor events (e.g., concerts and competitive sports)
Hazardous (> 300)	> 526	> 300	> 250.5-500	< 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close schools Cancel outdoor events (e.g., concerts and competitive sports) Consider closing workplaces not essential to public health If PM level is projected to remain high for a prolonged time, consider evacuation of sensitive populations

Excerpted from Wildfire Smoke: A Guide for Public Health Officials, Table 3, p. 31, 2008 revision. Available at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/carpa/toolkit/data-to-mes/wildfire-smoke-guide.pdf>.

¹Revised 24 hour average breakpoints from the **Revised Air Quality Standards for Particle Pollution and Updates to the Air Quality Index**, US Environmental Protection Agency, December 14, 2012. Available at <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/particlepollution/actions.html#dec12>.

²These 1- and 8-hr PM2.5 levels are estimated using the 24-hr breakpoints of the PM2.5 Air Quality Index included in the February 7, 2007 issue paper (http://www.epa.gov/airnow/aqi_issue_paper_020707.pdf) by dividing the 24-hr concentrations by the following ratios: 8-hr ratio is 0.7, 1-hr ratio is 0.4. Visibility is based on 1-hr values. If only PM10 measurements are available during smoky conditions, it can be assumed that the PM10 is composed primarily of fine particles (PM2.5), and that therefore the AQI and associated cautionary statements and advisories for PM2.5 may be used. This assumption is reflected in the column headings for Table 3.

³ Washington and Montana have developed more precautionary breakpoints, which can be found at: <http://www.deq.mt.gov/FireUpdates/BreakpointsRevised.asp> and <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/pdfs/WAQA.pdf>