Smoke Emergencies

Charles B. Mosher, MD, MPH, County Health Officer Air Pollution Control Officer
Christopher Brown, AICP, Air Pollution Control Officer
Define Roles:

- Health Officer’s
- Air Pollution Control Officer’s

- Clarify responsibilities
- Provide tools to execute responsibilities
Legal Responsibilities

Health Officer

- May take any preventive measure necessary to protect the Public Health from any Public Health hazard during local emergency (H & S 101040).
- “Local Emergency” means... air pollution” (G.C. 8558).
- MHOAC functions in medical/health aspects of shelters and local emergencies (H&S 1797.153).

Air Pollution Control Officer

- Control Air Pollution from all sources other than vehicles.
- Enforce Rules & Regulations.
- A.P. Control District may, at request of ARB, provide for abatement of A.P. episodes which cause discomfort or health risk (H&S 40001).
Coordinating Roles

DATA → MESSAGE → AUDIENCE
DATA

- PM Levels
- Modeling
- Graphing
- Diurnal patterns
MESSAGE

Adverse Health Impacts
MESSAGE

- adverse health impacts
- Lungs
- adverse health impacts
- Heart
- adverse health impacts
- Children
- adverse health impacts
- Elderly
- adverse health impacts
- Exercise
MESSAGE

• “Is it safe to go outdoors?”
• “Is it safe to send Johnny to school?”
• “Can kids go outdoors for recess?”
• “Is it safe to hold the Homecoming Game?”
• “Will a wet bandana over my face protect me?”
• “If I wear a mask, can I take my daily run?”
• “What is the Air Quality?”
• “What do I do with the ash?”
To Audience

Press Release

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Air Pollution Control Officer

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Health Officer
Table 3. Recommended Actions for Public Health Officials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AQI Category (AQI Values)</th>
<th>PM2.5 or PM10 Levels (ug/m³)</th>
<th>Visibility - Arid Conditions (miles)</th>
<th>Recommended Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good (0 to 50)</td>
<td>0 – 38 0 – 22 0 – 12</td>
<td>≥11</td>
<td>• If smoke event forecast, implement communication plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate (51 to 100)</td>
<td>39 – 88 23 – 50 12.1 – 35.4</td>
<td>6 – 10</td>
<td>• Issue public service announcements (PSAs) advising public about health effects and symptoms and ways to reduce exposure</td>
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<td>• Distribute information about exposure avoidance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101 to 150)</td>
<td>89 – 138 51 – 79 35.5 – 55.4</td>
<td>3 – 5</td>
<td>• If smoke event projected to be prolonged, evaluate and notify possible sites for cleaner air shelters</td>
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<td>• If smoke event projected to be prolonged, prepare evacuation plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unhealthy (151 to 200)</td>
<td>139 – 351 80 – 200 55.5 – 150.4</td>
<td>1.5 – 2.75</td>
<td>• Consider “Smoke Day” for schools (i.e., no school that day), possibly based on school environment and travel considerations</td>
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<td>• Consider canceling public events, based on public health and travel considerations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Very Unhealthy (201 to 300)</td>
<td>352 – 526 201 – 300 150.5 – 250.4</td>
<td>1 – 1.25</td>
<td>• 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.)</td>
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<td>• Cancel outdoor events (e.g., concerts and competitive sports)</td>
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<td>Hazardous (&gt; 300)</td>
<td>&gt; 526 &gt; 300 &gt; 250.5-500</td>
<td>&lt; 1</td>
<td>• Close schools</td>
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<td>• Cancel outdoor events (e.g., concerts and competitive sports)</td>
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<td>• Consider closing workplaces not essential to public health</td>
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<td>• If PM level is projected to remain high for a prolonged time, consider evacuation of sensitive populations</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
To Audience

- Press Release
- Dedicated phone line
- Website
- Facebook
- Electronic bulletin board
- Public Information Officer
Masks and Respirators
Masks and Respirators

Last Gasp After:

• Reduce activity
• Shelter indoors
• Air conditioner/Air cleaner
• “Clean air” room
• “Clean air” shelter
• Reduce travel outdoors
• Leave the area/evacuate
Questions