

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Requestor:

Requestor Phone:

Requestor Email:

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 18 November 2016

Response Date: 18 November 2016

Type of TA Request: Urgent

Request:

██████████ is experiencing significant air quality issues from the wildfires. They reached out to try and get more details on the CA Clean Air Shelter program. [State redacted] has a one-pager on it, but would like to speak to someone in California Emergency Preparedness.

Does TRACIE have any docs posted for wildfires and poor air quality resources? Best practices, etc.

Response:

ASPR TRACIE researched best practices for wildfire smoke and air quality and pulled existing resources from our [Natural Disasters Topic Collection](#).

Primary Resources

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2016). [Wildfire Smoke: A Guide for Public Health Officials](#).

This guide, developed in 2006 and revised in 2016 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the California Air Resources Board is the primary public health resource published by these organizations to guide preparation, risk communication, and interventions. The appendices provide several Fact Sheets for use in risk communication efforts.

Additional Resources

Lessons Learned: Fire/Wildfire

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). [Protect Yourself from Wildfire Smoke](#).

The information on this webpage can help first responders and community members understand the risk and protect themselves from the effects of wildfire smoke.

Finlay, S.E., Moffat, A., Gazzard, R., et al. (2012). [Health Impacts of Wildfires](#). PLOS Currents Disasters. Nov 2;4:e4f959951cce2c.

The authors conducted a comprehensive literature review of international research on wildfire-related health effects and led several focus groups with study authors. Results

indicated that certain populations are especially vulnerable; wood smoke has high toxicity levels; respiratory morbidity is the leading health effect, wildfire exposure is also associated with burns (and related effects) and cardiovascular, ophthalmic, and psychiatric problems.

Kenward, A., Adams-Smith, D., and Raja, U. (2013). [Wildfires and Air Pollution: The Hidden Health Hazards of Climate Change](#). Climate Central.

This analysis document reviews air pollution from some of the largest wildfires in the West over the past 12 years. It addresses the impact of wildfires on air quality, and the health impacts of wildfires.

National Resources Defense Council. (2013). [Where There's Fire, There's Smoke: Wildfire Smoke Affects Communities Distant from Deadly Flames](#).

Readers can learn about how smoke from wildfires—both near and far—can have an effect on health. Maps that show how smoke from wildfires in 2011 affected many areas of the U.S. are included.

Plans, Tools, and Templates: Fires and Wildfires

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Emergency Preparedness and Response. (2013). [Wildfires](#).

This webpage can help users prepare for a wildfire, take proper actions during a wildfire, and prevent injury and address physical and emotional health after a wildfire.

Commonwealth of Kentucky. (2016). [Wildfire Smoke Can Impact Your Health](#). Kentucky.gov.

In this news post, the Kentucky Division for Air Quality and the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH), within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, issued information on how smoke from the fires may affect the community's health.

Jagnarine, S., Van Alphen, D., Gibbs, T., et al. (2014). [Hospitals Don't Burn!: Hospital Fire Prevention and Evacuation Guide](#). World Health Organization, and Pan American Health Organization.

This guidance document was developed to address the vulnerability of hospitals to fires. It is intended that all possible steps should be taken to minimize the hazard of fires in hospitals and the need for evacuation. The guide is applicable to existing hospitals that can be retrofitted to improve safety against fires, and proposed new-build facilities. It is formatted into four sections: Prevention, Suppression, Evacuation, and Training Drills.

National Wildfire Coordinating Group. (2015). [InciWeb](#).

This webpage provides up-to-date information on wildfires across the country. Users can search by state or incident name. Photographs, announcements, and news articles are also included.

Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division Health Security, Preparedness, and Response Program. (n.d.). [Wildfires and Smoke](#). (Accessed 11/18/2016.) Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division Health Security, Preparedness, and Response Program.

This webpage includes information and links to factsheets and other resources that can help users learn about current wildfires, smoke conditions, and how to reduce the health effects of wildfire smoke.

Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division Health Security, Preparedness, and Response Program. (2015). [Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication Toolkit for Wildfire Smoke](#).

This toolkit can help local health authorities develop public messaging during a severe wildfire smoke event. It includes key messages, talking points, sample press releases, sample social media messages for Twitter and Facebook, and links to related information.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Disaster Information Management Research Center. (2015). [Fires and Wildfires](#).

This webpage provides links to fire and health-related information and other relevant resources. Information is geared towards health professionals and the general public.