



Town Hall Drywall, Inc.

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Addendum A - Wildfire Smoke Plan

Town Hall Drywall

Protect your employees and your business.
(T8CCR) section 5141.1

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Addendum A - Wildfire Smoke Plan

Town Hall Drywall

Introduction

Smoke from wildfires contains gases, chemicals, and fine particles that can have adverse health effects. The most significant hazard comes from breathing fine particles in the air, which can cause coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, and impact lung function as well as existing respiratory and heart conditions. Fine particulate matter of the 2.5 micrometer diameter or smaller size (PM 2.5) are considered to be the most harmful.

The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) has established regulatory requirements for employers to protect outdoor workers from wildfire smoke exposure. This regulation, 8 CCR §5141.1. Protection from Wildfire Smoke applies to workplaces where the 2.5 PM Air Quality Index (AQI) is 151 or greater and the employee may be exposed to wildfire smoke.

Purpose, Scope and Application

The objective of this Wildfire Smoke Exposure Plan is to protect Town Hall Drywall employees from exposure to wildfire smoke and to ensure that Town Hall Drywall is in compliance with 8 CCR §5141.1. Protection from Wildfire Smoke.

At Town Hall Drywall, employees who may need to work outdoors for an extended period of time during a wildfire. Protection from Wildfire Smoke does not apply to:

- Enclosed buildings or structures in which the air is filtered by a mechanical ventilation system and the employer ensures that windows, doors, bays, and other openings are kept closed to minimize contamination by outdoor or unfiltered air.
- Enclosed vehicles in which the air is filtered by a cabin air filter and the employer ensures that windows, doors, and other openings are kept closed to minimize contamination by outdoor or unfiltered air.
- The employer demonstrates that the concentration of PM 2.5 in the air does not exceed a concentration that corresponds to a current AQI of 151 or greater by measuring PM 2.5 levels at the worksite in accordance with Appendix A of 8 CCR §5141.1.
- Employees exposed to a current AQI for PM 2.5 of 151 or greater for a total of one hour or less during a shift.

Definitions

Current Air Quality Index (Current AQI). The method used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to report air quality on a real-time basis. Current AQI is also referred to as the “NowCast,” and represents data collected over time periods of varying length in order to reflect present conditions as accurately as possible.

The current AQI is divided into six categories as shown in the table below.

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0 to 50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151 to 200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.
Hazardous	301 to 500	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.

NIOSH. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. NIOSH tests and approves respirators for use in the workplace.

PM2.5. Solid particles and liquid droplets suspended in air, known as particulate matter, with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 micrometers or smaller.

Wildfire Smoke. Emissions from fires in “wildlands,” as defined in Title 8, section 3402, or in adjacent developed areas.

Responsibilities

- A. Town Hall Drywall Ownership shall:
 1. Maintain and update the written Wildfire Smoke Exposure Plan.
 2. Provide training for employees who perform work activities outdoors during or after wildfires when smoke is present.
 3. Measure PM 2.5 levels at the worksite before each shift and at designated intervals during wildfire events.
- B. Managers and Supervisors of employees who perform work activities outdoors during or after wildfires when smoke is present shall:
 1. Ensure that their employees are made aware of the Town Hall Drywall Wildfire Smoke Exposure Plan.
 2. Ensure that their employees have access to respiratory protection supplies (i.e.- N95s) and are wearing respirators when the AQI is >500.
 3. To the extent feasible, encourage and allow employees to work in enclosed structures or vehicles where the air is filtered.

4. Implement the following control systems for employees that must work outdoors during a wildfire:
 - a. Changing procedures such as moving workers to a place with a lower current AQI for PM2.5;
 - b. Reducing work time in areas with unfiltered air;
 - c. Increasing rest time and frequency, and providing a rest area with filtered air; and
 - d. Reducing the physical intensity of the work to help lower the breathing and heart rates.
5. Notify Town Hall Drywall ownership if their employees inform them that the air quality is getting worse or if they are suffering from any symptoms due to the air quality.

C. Employees working outdoors during a wildfire shall:

1. Understand and follow the requirements of the SDSU Wildfire Smoke Exposure Management Program, including participating in training.
2. Wear respirators when required to do so (i.e.- AQI is >500).
3. Inform their supervisor if the air quality is getting worse.
4. Inform their supervisor if they are suffering from any symptoms due to the air quality.

Exposure Monitoring

Town Hall Drywall shall determine employee exposure to PM2.5 for worksites covered by this section before each shift and periodically thereafter, as needed to protect the health of the employee.

Town Hall Drywall will check the AQI forecasts and the current AQI for PM2.5 using the US EPA AirNow website - www.airnow.gov.

Communication

Town Hall Drywall Foremen shall inform their employees of:

1. The current AQI for PM2.5 as identified in subsection titled DEFINITIONS; and
2. Protective Measures available to employees to reduce their wildfire smoke exposures.

Town Hall Drywall Employees shall inform the employer of:

1. Worsening air quality; and
2. Any adverse symptoms that may be the result of wildfire smoke exposure such as asthma attacks, difficulty breathing, and chest pain.

Training and Instruction

Town Hall Drywall shall provide employees with effective training and instruction. At a minimum, the training shall contain the following information:

- A. The health effects of wildfire smoke;
- B. The right to obtain medical treatment without fear of reprisal;
- C. How employees can obtain the current Air Quality Index (AQI) for PM2.5;
- D. The requirements in Title 8, section 5141.1 about wildfire smoke;
- E. The employer's two-way communication system;
- F. The employer's methods to protect employees from wildfire smoke;
- G. The importance, limitations, and benefits of using a respirator when exposed to wildfire smoke; and
- H. How to properly put on, use, and maintain the respirators provided by the employer.