

## Wildfire Smoke Protection Plan - Appendix A: Definitions

**Air Quality Index** – The Air Quality Index (AQI) was developed by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an indicator of overall air quality and is based on the five criteria pollutants regulated under the Clean Air Act: ground level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. For the purposes of this Plan, the AQI can be determined by the following means:

- a. Check the current ambient air concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> from the U.S. EPA AirNow website, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) air quality website or, equivalent source; or
- b. Obtain the current concentration in ambient air for PM<sub>2.5</sub> directly from the U.S. EPA (via AirNow), the Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program, or the DEQ air quality website; or
- c. Directly measure the work location ambient air concentration for PM<sub>2.5</sub> in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions for the testing device used; or
- d. If all of the previous methods are not practical, use the 5-3-1 Visibility Chart to estimate the current air quality and corresponding AQI risk category.

**Elastomeric Respirators** – A type of reusable half- or full-face air-purifying respirator that is used with exchangeable filter elements (cartridges or filters) that may be selected to provide the needed level of protection (e.g., N95). The facepiece is made of synthetic or natural rubber material that allows repeated cleaning, disinfection, storage, and reuse. They can be used to protect against gases, vapors, and particles if equipped with the appropriate filters or cartridges.

**Feasibility** – The ability of PCC to implement any requirement in a rule. OR OSHA rules never prohibit work. Whether feasibility is mentioned in a provision of the rule or not, if PCC can demonstrate that it is functionally impossible to comply or if doing so would prevent completion of the work, PCC need not comply, but must take any available reasonable alternative steps to protect the employees involved.

**Filtering Facepiece Respirator** – Disposable, negative-pressure, air purifying respirators where an integral part of the facepiece or the entire facepiece is made of air contaminant filtering material. Filtering facepiece respirators are more commonly known as dust masks, N-95 or KN-95 respirators.

**Greater Hazard** – The ability of PCC to demonstrate that compliance with the requirements of this Plan would expose an employee to a hazard associated with a substantially more serious injury or illness, thereby providing a narrow exception to the requirements of the Plan to the degree that a greater hazard exists. An example of a greater hazard in relation to the use of non-flame-resistant filtering facepiece respirators would include potential facial burns to a qualified employee working within the minimum approach distance (MAD) of an energized high voltage electrical system where flame resistance clothing is required.

**NIOSH** – The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the United States 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 fine particulate matter, with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 micrometers or smaller and measured in micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m<sup>3</sup>).

**Sensitive Groups** – People with pre-existing health conditions and those who are sensitive to air pollution who are among those likely to experience health problems from exposure to wildfire smoke. Examples of sensitive groups include: people with lung disease such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including bronchitis and emphysema, and those who smoke; people with respiratory infections, such as pneumonia, acute bronchitis, bronchiolitis, cold, flu, or those with or recovering from COVID-9; people with existing heart or circulatory problems, such as irregular heartbeat, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, angina, and those who have had a heart attack or stroke; children under the age of 18, and adults over age 65; pregnant women; people with diabetes; and people with other medical or health conditions which can be exacerbated by exposure to wildfire smoke as determined by a physician.

**Wildfire Smoke** – Emissions from unplanned fires in wildlands, which may include adjacent brush, trees, slash, or a combination thereof.

**Wildlands** – Uncultivated and sparsely populated geographical areas covered primarily by grass, brush, trees, slash, or a combination thereof.

**OR OSHA** – Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration