

## When should local officials issue warnings or cancel local activities?

- School and local officials should consider the following and consult the [Wildfire Smoke: A Guide for Public Health Officials](#) when deciding to close or curtail local activities or events due to wildfire smoke:
  - Is the activity being held inside or outside?
  - Do smoke levels reduce visibility and make it unsafe to travel to the activity?
  - Are highly sensitive groups such as asthmatic children participating?
  - What time of day will the activities be held?
  - Are smoke forecasts available for the day? Based on the smoke forecast, will the smoke level be higher or lower at the time of the activity and at the time individuals will be traveling to the activity?
  - Are smoke levels inside public buildings likely to be similar to or lower than those in private homes? For example, if local populations do not have air conditioning and the activity is held inside a public building that does have air conditioning and it is hot and smoky outside, it may benefit the public to seek relief indoors.
  - Is it practical to cancel part of the activity?
  - Are smoke forecasts likely to put any or all populations at increased risk? See below for **Recommended Actions**.
  - Is it practical to continue with the event as planned but issue a warning for sensitive groups? For example: holding the high school football game but issuing a warning that encourages sensitive groups — such as grandparents and young children — to stay at home and not attend the event?

## Recommended Actions for Public Health Officials

Air Quality Index (AQI) Category (AQI Values)	Level of Fine Particles in the Air measured in micrograms per cubic meter	Recommended Actions
Good (0 to 50)	0-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If smoke event forecast, implement communication plan</li> </ul>
Moderate (51 to 100)	12.1-35.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare for full implementation of School Activity Guidelines (<a href="https://www3.epa.gov/airnow/flag/school-chart-2014.pdf">https://www3.epa.gov/airnow/flag/school-chart-2014.pdf</a>)</li> <li>• Issue public service announcements (PSAs) advising public about health effects, symptoms and ways to reduce exposure</li> <li>• Distribute information about exposure avoidance</li> </ul>
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101 to 150)	35.5-55.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate implementation of School Activity Guidelines</li> <li>• If smoke event projected to be prolonged, evaluate and notify possible sites for clean air shelters</li> <li>• If smoke event projected to be prolonged, prepare evacuation plans</li> </ul>
Unhealthy (151 to 200)	55.5-150.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full implementation of School Activity Guidelines</li> <li>• Consider canceling outdoor events (e.g., concerts and competitive sports), based on public health and travel considerations</li> </ul>
Very Unhealthy (201 to 300)	150.5-250.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools move all activities indoors or reschedule them to another day.</li> <li>• Consider closing some or all schools</li> <li>• Cancel outdoor events involving activity (e.g., competitive sports)</li> <li>• Consider cancelling outdoor events that do not involve activity (e.g. concerts)</li> </ul>
Hazardous (> 300)	>250.5-500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider closing schools</li> <li>• Cancel outdoor events (e.g., concerts and competitive sports)</li> <li>• Consider closing workplaces not essential to public health</li> <li>• If PM level is projected to remain high for a prolonged time, consider evacuation of at-risk populations</li> </ul>