

1 Purpose	To outline the requirements for working safely in smoky conditions due to wildfires.
2 Application	Applies to all NTPC employees and contractors who may be exposed to wildfire smoke during work activities.
3 Definitions	Wildfire Smoke A mixture of gases and fine particles from burning trees and plants.
4 References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NTPC SWP 4.09 Respiratory Protective Equipment
5 Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
6 PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory protective equipment
7 Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
8 Work Practice	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Wildfire smoke may present a serious health hazard to workers exposed to poor air quality conditions.</p> <p>The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations of the Northwest Territories do not specifically address outdoor air quality. Standards for outdoor air quality are suggested by the GNWT's department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC). NTPC shall strive to adhere to these standards.</p> <p>ECC's recommended 24-hour exposure limit to fine particulate matter in air (PM 2.5) is 28 micrograms per cubic metre (mcg/m³). This is relatively low and can be easily exceeded with a mild amount of wildfire smoke in the air. Environment Canada Special Air Quality Statements will reflect when particulate levels become a concern.</p> <p>Consult the Government of Canada's Weather page to determine if a Special Air Quality Statement is in effect for the area you will be working in.</p> <p>Like all risks, poor air quality due to wildfire smoke must be identified as a hazard and suitable controls must be implemented prior to starting work.</p> <p>Working Outdoors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempt to stop outdoor work during poor air quality conditions due to wildfire smoke and reschedule when air quality improves. Due to the difficulty of forecasting air quality and depending on the nature of the work, rescheduling is often not possible.


- Where feasible limit outdoor activities and move activities indoors.
- Attempt to limit time working outdoors in areas where workers will be exposed to wildfire smoke. This may include more frequent breaks or relocating to an area with better air quality. Staying hydrated when working in smoky conditions is also important.
- The pace of outdoor work should be slowed to reduce physical exertion, which will reduce the rate wildfire smoke is inhaled.
- If a Special Air Quality Statement is in effect, workers should wear respiratory PPE, such as N95 masks or half mask respirators with P100 filter cartridges. See SWP 4.09: Respiratory Protective Equipment for guidance on respiratory protection.
- Consider the effect smoke has on visibility before starting work, especially if work requires operating vehicles or mobile equipment. If smoke is reducing visibility to dangerous levels, do not conduct the work until conditions improve.
- Workers have a right to refuse work where they perceive an unusual danger. The circumstances of your work refusal must be immediately reported to your supervisor and corrective actions implemented.

Working Indoors

- Keep doors and windows closed if the temperature of the building you are working in is comfortable.
- Ensure HVAC systems are working properly, and air filters are cleaned.
- Use portable air purifiers with HEPA filters to improve indoor air quality.
- Consider reducing the intake of outdoor air temporarily.
- N95 Masks can also be worn indoors if conditions warrant.

Monitoring for Symptoms

- Workers must monitor for health effects from wildfire smoke, especially those who are pregnant, have respiratory illness or older adults. Symptoms include shortness of breath, wheezing (including asthma attacks), severe cough, dizziness or chest pains. Stay inside if you are feeling

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	unwell and experiencing symptoms. Contact your health care provider if symptoms persist or become worse.
9 Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GNWT Environment and Climate Change Air Quality Guidelines • Guideline for Ambient Air Quality Standards in the Northwest Territories • Environment Canada Weather Page

Development		
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Revision History					
#	Revised Sections	Description of Revisions	Revised by (name, position)	Approved by (name, position)	Issue Date
01					
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