

Safety Bulletin

Outdoor smoke conditions

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Introduction:

As a result of bushfires and other wildfires, smoky conditions are created across the region that may continue for some time. Poor atmospheric conditions can affect people's health, and it is important for everyone to reduce exposure.

Advice and actions:

The following recommendations made for all employees and students:

1. Monitor the atmospheric conditions around you
[EPA AirWatch](#) uses [five categories](#) for the overall air quality, check the current air quality level and the general health advice.
 - For individuals who may be undertaking work or activities outdoor, please assess the air quality, and where possible reschedule
 - If the air quality is Very poor or Hazardous, avoid being outside in the smoke or dust. Close windows and doors (include revolving doors)
2. Supervisors should ensure personnel most at risk have suitable work arrangements to reduce their exposure. DHHS website provides information on [reducing smoke exposure and people most at risk](#)
People most at risk include:
 - Children younger than 14
 - People older than 65
 - People with heart and lung conditions, including asthma
 - Pregnant womenIf you experience any adverse symptoms, seek medical advice.
3. Whilst P2 masks are an option, it is unlikely that there will be large suppliers readily available and it is strongly recommended that actions to be taken to reduce exposure through avoidance (i.e. stay indoor).
 - NSW Government's general advice on [avoiding or reducing smoke exposure](#)

Campus Services is monitoring the air quality in various University Buildings, any specific arrangements will be updated and advised.

For accurate and current warnings monitor:

- Emergency Services Victoria [website](#)
- Emergency Services Victoria App: [Apple](#), [Google](#)
- local emergency radio stations <https://radio.abc.net.au/stations>; <http://reception.abc.net.au/>