

Target audience

This advice is for Sydney Trains' workers, including contractors, who may be affected by smoke caused by bushfires.

The Issue

Workers may be exposed to smoke while working indoors or outdoors during periods of significant bushfire activity.

While the movement of bushfire smoke cannot always be controlled, how and when workers undertake their duties can be planned and controlled accordingly.

**What you must do****Indoor working environments**

- Ensure indoor environments are safe and without risks to health for workers during periods of elevated smoke. Where relevant and applicable, this can involve:
 - working with your Line Manager, Facilities Management or other appropriate stakeholder involved with property management to monitor the air quality of buildings and/or workplaces;
 - put measures in place using a reasonable and practical approach if there is evidence that the air quality is not within acceptable levels; and
 - keep workers informed of the measures taken and any changes required.

Outdoor working environments

- Review whether outdoor or field work can be rescheduled, if possible, until conditions (e.g. visibility and air quality) improve. If work needs to go ahead, Line Managers should:
 - undertake appropriate risk assessments prior to work commencing;
 - provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as P2 face masks to workers with instructions on its correct use and fitting;
 - ensure when PPE is provided, no secondary risks such as increased heat load are introduced and if they are, these are managed appropriately;
 - ensure workers always have an effective means of communication if working alone, remotely or in an isolated place;
 - remain aware of any bushfires near the proposed work area(s) and advise workers accordingly, including to follow instructions and advice from emergency services and evacuate the area if needed;
 - monitor outdoor air quality levels via [Air Quality Alerts NSW](#); and
 - access health information on bushfire smoke via [NSW Health](#).

Important health advice

- Workers experiencing concerns about their health should seek advice from their doctor.
- Anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing should seek urgent medical attention.
- People who are sensitive to smoke and air pollution can be more vulnerable to health-related illness as well, so staying hydrated and cool is important.

Further information relating to *bushfire smoke* is available on the SEQR SharePoint [site](#). In addition, contact your SEQR Business Partner or Line Manager if you have any questions.



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