

A large wildfire is shown with thick, billowing smoke rising from a forested hillside. The smoke is a mix of white, grey, and dark brown, indicating intense heat and combustion. The background is a clear blue sky. The foreground shows a dense forest of green trees and shrubs.

# SMOKE EMERGENCIES

*CARPA*

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# Define Roles:

- Health Officer's
- Air Pollution Control Officer's
- Clarify responsibilities
- Provide tools to execute responsibilities

# Legal Responsibilities

## Health Officer

- May take any preventive measure necessary to protect the Public Health from any Public Health hazard during local emergency (H & S 101040).
- “Local Emergency” means... air pollution” (G.C. 8558).
- MHOAC functions in medical/health aspects of shelters and local emergencies (H&S 1797.153).

## Air Pollution Control Officer

- Control Air Pollution from all sources other than vehicles.
- Enforce Rules & Regulations.
- A.P. Control District may, at request of ARB, provide for abatement of A.P. episodes which cause discomfort or health risk (H&S 40001).

# Coordinating Roles

DATA



MESSAGE



AUDIENCE

A photograph of a volcanic eruption. A massive, billowing plume of white and grey ash and smoke rises from a forested hillside. The plume is dense and reaches high into the sky. The foreground is filled with green trees and bushes. The word "DATA" is written in large, yellow, serif capital letters across the upper part of the image.

# DATA

- PM Levels
- Modeling
- Graphing
- Diurnal patterns

# MESSAGE



## Adverse Health Impacts

# MESSAGE



- adverse health impacts – Lungs
- adverse health impacts – Heart
- adverse health impacts – Children
- adverse health impacts – Elderly
- adverse health impacts – Exercise

# MESSAGE



- “Is it safe to go outdoors?”
- “Is it safe to send Johnny to school?”
- “Can kids go outdoors for recess?”
- “Is it safe to hold the Homecoming Game?”
- “Will a wet bandana over my face protect me?”
- “If I wear a mask, can I take my daily run?”
- “What is the Air Quality?”
- “What do I do with the ash?”



# To Audience

Press Release

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Air Pollution Control  
Officer

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Health Officer

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Table 3. Recommended Actions for Public Health Officials <sup>2,3</sup>

AQI Category (AQI Values)	PM2.5 or PM10 Levels (ug/m <sup>3</sup> )			Visibility - Arid Conditions (miles)	Recommended Actions
	1-3hr avg	8 hr avg	24 hr avg <sup>1</sup>		
Good (0 to 50)	0 – 38	0 – 22	0 – 12	≥ 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If smoke event forecast, implement communication plan</li> </ul>
Moderate (51 to 100)	39 – 88	23 – 50	12.1 – 35.4	6 – 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue public service announcements (PSAs) advising public about health effects and symptoms and ways to reduce exposure</li> <li>• Distribute information about exposure avoidance</li> </ul>
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101 to 150)	89 – 138	51 – 79	35.5– 55.4	3 – 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If smoke event projected to be prolonged, evaluate and notify possible sites for cleaner air shelters</li> <li>• If smoke event projected to be prolonged, prepare evacuation plans</li> </ul>
Unhealthy (151 to 200)	139 – 351	80 – 200	55.5 – 150.4	1.5 – 2.75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider “Smoke Day” for schools (i.e., no school that day), possibly based on school environment and travel considerations</li> <li>• Consider canceling public events, based on public health and travel considerations</li> </ul>
Very Unhealthy (201 to 300)	352 – 526	201 – 300	150.5 – 250.4	1 – 1.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider closing some or all schools (Newer schools with a central air cleaning filter may be more protective than older, leakier homes. See “Closures”, below.)</li> <li>• Cancel outdoor events (e.g., concerts and competitive sports)</li> </ul>
Hazardous (> 300)	> 526	> 300	> 250.5-500	< 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close 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 sensitive populations</li> </ul>

A large volcanic eruption is shown, with a massive plume of ash and smoke rising from a forested hillside. The plume is thick and billowing, with a dark, reddish-brown base and a lighter, greyish top. The foreground is a dense forest of green trees, and the sky is a pale, hazy blue. The text 'To Audience' is overlaid in a large, yellow, serif font.

# To Audience

- Press Release
- Dedicated phone line
- Website
- Facebook
- Electronic bulletin board
- Public Information Officer

# Masks and Respirators



A large volcanic eruption is shown, with a massive plume of ash and smoke rising into the sky. The plume is dark and billowing, with some lighter, white smoke at the base. The eruption is set against a background of a forested hillside with green trees. The sky is a mix of grey and blue, suggesting a hazy or overcast day.

# Masks and Respirators

## Last Gasp After:

- Reduce activity
- Shelter indoors
- Air conditioner/Air cleaner
- “Clean air” room
- “Clean air” shelter
- Reduce travel outdoors
- Leave the area/evacuate



**CCLHO/CAPCOA**  
**Air-Borne Emergency  
Response Procedure**

**Revised June 2014**

*Mariposa County Health Department  
Mariposa County Air Quality District*



Questions