



A WILDFIRE SMOKE RESPONSE PLAN AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR THE CITY OF CAMROSE



Wildfire Smoke Composition and Health Risks

Composition

Wildfire smoke is composed of fine and ultra-fine **particulate matter, hydrocarbons and other harmful oxidative species** that find their way deep into lungs.

Increased Risk

The likelihood of extreme fire risk is expected to **increase in Western Canada from 1.5 - 6 times** in this decade alone (Coogan et al., 2019). Between May to September 2021 and 2023 there was a **260% increase in frequency of unhealthy to hazardous air quality** days in the City of Camrose.

Consequence

Studies show wildfire smoke is reported to be the cause of death of approximately **340,000 lives per year internationally** (McGee & Healey, 2021). **Outdoor workers** are especially prone to negative health effects of wildfire smoke.

Potential Health Effects

- Asthma
- Breathing Difficulty
- Cardiovascular Issues
- Cough
- Irregular Heartbeat

Recommendations For Outdoor Workers



Move Indoors



Reduce Activity



Personal Protective Equipment



Stay Hydrated

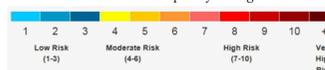
Communications Strategy



THE AIR QUALITY HEALTH INDEX (AQHI)

What is the AQHI

The AQHI is a scale which ranges from 1 to 10+, and is used to determine the risk associated with air quality ratings.



How to use the AQHI

- Determine your personal risk level
- Use the provided QR code to view the current air quality in Camrose
- Take the proper precautions

High Risk Individuals may include:

- Seniors
- Pregnant people
- Outdoor workers
- Those with chronic health conditions

If you have any questions or concerns contact your doctor



Stay Indoors

When air quality is high risk stay in doors if possible. If you are in need of a shelter with proper air filtration, come to the Recreation Centre during opening hours.

LEARN MORE

Government of Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/airquality.html>

View the air quality in Camrose here

