Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S)

Dear OSU Employees,

Wildfires currently burning in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest can result in smoke and poor air quality that may result in potential health risks. The university takes the wellness and safety of its employees and students seriously and provides resources to contribute to the wellness of the university community. Here are resources for employees:

- **Learn more.** Oregon Health Authority has information about reducing the effects of wildfire smoke, including [fact sheets and FAQs in multiple languages](#).

- **Monitor local air quality.** Air pollution levels are measured by the Air Quality Index (AQI), which includes gases and particulate matter. The higher the level on the AQI, the greater the potential health risks. OSU’s Wildfire Smoke/Air Quality webpage, managed by the Office of Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S), provides current local air quality levels in Corvallis, Bend, Newport and Portland.

In the event of very unhealthy AQI levels, announcements will be sent to the university community regarding closures or curtailment of university operations.

Meanwhile, all university supervisors have been sent information about new Oregon OSHA workplace safety requirements that apply to employees who have more than intermittent or short-duration exposure to wildfire smoke, who work in buildings without a mechanical ventilation system, or who work in enclosed vehicles without a cabin air filter.

If you meet this workplace criteria, you will be required to take important safety training. If such training is required, you will be notified by your supervisor and be provided the links to that training.

Please contact OSU’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) with any questions.

Regards,

Tom Doyle
Director