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OPERATIONS MANUAL

STANDARD INSTRUCTION 10 INJURY AND ILLNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM

SECTION 25 WILDFIRE SMOKE PROTECTION

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SUBJECT: INJURY ILLNESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAM WILDFIRE SMOKE PROTECTION PLAN	SECTION 25	PAGE 2 of 4	EFFECTIVE DATE 5 October 2020

I. PURPOSE

To provide guidance on respiratory protection during periods of poor air quality based on the City of San Diego's "[Wildfire Smoke Protection Plan and Training Tool](#)".

II. SCOPE

This policy shall apply to all San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) personnel.

III. AUTHORITY

The fire chief authorizes the information within this policy.

IV. POLICY

A. Emergency Operations Exemption

1. Personnel exempt from the following mandates include:
 - a. Operations personnel actively involved in any firefighting, rescue, or emergency operations
 - b. Lifeguard personnel performing a rescue or emergency operations
 - c. When it's use may be a risk for injury

B. Air Quality Assessment

1. SDFD will monitor and report on all pollutants that are measured by the reporting areas.
2. Air quality assessment will occur every 30 minutes, or at the fastest reasonable interval allowed by the data provider, through an automatic process at the Emergency Command and Data Center (ECDC).
3. Geographical locations throughout the city will be assessed using known reporting areas.
4. Daily AQI values are documented through ECDC's automated assessment process.
5. Air Quality Index ratings
 - a. AQI of 0-50: Good
 - b. AQI of 51-100: Moderate
 - c. AQI of 101-150: Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
 - d. AQI of 151-200: Unhealthy
 - e. AQI of 201-300: Very Unhealthy
 - f. AQI of 301-500: Hazardous

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C. Notification Process

1. When the air quality index (AQI) reaches 151 at any reporting area an automatic email will be sent to the distribution list which includes all SDFD personnel stating (or similar language):
All Personnel: The AQI in [reporting area name] is greater than 151. Affected battalion(s): xxx. Personnel are to begin first level work modifications (voluntary N95 mask use). [reporting area name] includes zip codes xxx.
2. When the AQI reaches 501 or more at any reporting area an automatic email will be sent to the distribution which includes all SDFD personnel stating (or similar language):
All Personnel: The AQI [reporting area name] is greater than 500. Affected battalion(s): xxx. Only those personnel who are trained in a respiratory fitness program are permitted to begin second level work modifications (mandatory N95 mask use). [reporting area name] includes zip codes xxx.
3. When the AQI drops below 151 an automatic email will go out to the distribution list which includes all SDFD personnel stating (or similar language):
All Personnel: The AQI in [reporting area name] has dropped below 151. Affected battalion(s): xxx. Personnel may resume normal operations (discontinue voluntary use of N95 mask). [reporting area name] includes zip codes xxx.
4. When the AQI drops below 500 and remains above 151 an automatic email will be sent to the distribution list which includes all SDFD personnel stating (or similar language):
All Personnel: The AQI in [reporting area name] has dropped below 500 but remains above 151. Affected battalion(s): xxx. Personnel are to begin first level work modifications (voluntary N95 mask use). [reporting area name] includes zip codes xxx.
5. Supervisors will ensure all personnel working in the field (Operations, Logistics, Community Risk Reduction, etc.) are notified of AQI and work modification changes.

D. Work Modifications

1. Modifications apply to personnel working out of doors or in a location that does not have mechanical air filtration for more than one hour (cumulative) during their shift.
 - a. No Modifications (AQI of 0 to 150)
 - b. First Level Modifications (AQI of 151 to 500)
 - 1) Relocate work to an area where the air is filtered
 - 2) Reduce time in area with unfiltered air

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- 3) Increase rest time and frequency in filtered air
- 4) Reduce physical intensity of work to decrease heart and breathing rates
- 5) Voluntary use of a N95 filtering facepiece respirator when in unfiltered air
- c. Second Level Modifications (AQI greater than 501)
 - 1) Relocate work to an area where the air is filtered
 - 2) Reduce time in area with unfiltered air
 - 3) Increase rest time and frequency in filtered air
 - 4) Reduce physical intensity of work to decrease heart and breathing rates
 - 5) Mandatory use of a N95 filtering facepiece respirator when in unfiltered air only by personnel who participate in a respiratory fitness program

E. N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirator Masks

- 1. N95 filtering facepiece respirator masks ('N95 masks') are:
 - a. Not medical grade masks
 - b. To be kept clean and protected when not in use
 - c. To be assessable while on-duty
 - d. To be replaced through Logistics via an email through the chain of command
 - e. To be provided to all personnel
- 2. Training on proper use will be provided to all SDFD personnel
- 3. N95 mask replacement criteria:
 - a. Difficult to breathe through
 - b. Contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions
 - c. Contact with a patient with a confirmed or suspected infectious disease
 - d. Obviously damaged or lost