

**TRAILS END WATER DISTRICT #2  
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-3\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A WILDFIRE SMOKE POLICY**

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of TRAILS END WATER DISTRICT #2 (hereinafter referred to as the "District") have reviewed and discussed WAC 296-820-805 and have determined that Trails End Water District is subject to the provisions intended for workplaces susceptible to the effects of wildfire smoke; and

WHEREAS, the District wishes to adopt policies consistent with the WAC, it is now, therefore,

RESOLVED that

A. The following definitions shall apply as per WAC 296-820-810:

(1) Air Quality Index (AQI). A unitless index used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to communicate air quality for several pollutants, including PM2.5. References to the AQI used throughout this chapter means the "NowCast AQI for PM2.5."

(2) Current PM2.5. The concentration of PM2.5 for the most current hour available, calculated using an hourly average of PM2.5 data.

(3) Emergency response. Rescue, evacuation, utilities, communications, transportation, and medical operations; when such operations are directly aiding firefighting; protecting public health and safety; or actively protecting, restoring, or maintaining the safe and reliable operation of critical infrastructure at risk.

(4) High-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter. A filter capable of trapping and retaining at least 99.97 percent of all monodispersed particles of 0.3 micrometers mean aerodynamic diameter or larger.

(5) NIOSH. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. NIOSH tests and approves respirators for use in the workplace.

(6) NowCast. The method used by the EPA and the Washington state department of ecology to approximate the air quality for the most current hour available by using a calculation that involves multiple hours of past data. The NowCast uses longer averages during periods of stable air quality and shorter averages when air quality is changing rapidly, such as during a wildfire. The NowCast is generally updated every hour.

(7) PM2.5. Solid particles and liquid droplets suspended in air, known as particulate matter, with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 micrometers or smaller. Measured in micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ).

(8) Wildfire smoke. PM2.5 which includes emissions from planned and unplanned fires in wildlands, wildland urban interface, agricultural operations, or adjacent developed areas. Wildfire smoke contains a complex mixture of gases and particulates. Fine particulates such as PM2.5 are the primary pollutant of public and occupational health concern in wildfire smoke.

(9) Wildlands. Sparsely populated geographical areas covered primarily by grass, brush, trees, crops, or combination thereof.

B. Trails End Water District will use the following approved methods for determining the PM2.5 for their work sites:

1. L&I Air Quality Monitoring Map

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- 2. Washington Smokie Information website
- 3. any other method approved by WAC 2960820

C. Communication of Smoke Hazard to Employees: Trails End Water District will develop a plan to inform employees when smoke hazards exceed recommended thresholds, including provisions to encourage employees to report smoke hazards or poor air quality at the worksite or to report symptoms which may be related to wildfire smoke inhalation.

D. Training: If the District determines that work must be performed during smoke hazard situations, respirators or other safety equipment shall be provided along with appropriate training for use. Training shall be provided to employees on an annual basis, and shall include the information found in WAC 296-820-850 Appendix A.

E. Exposure Response: The District's plan to minimize employee exposure shall primarily be to send employees home, but in the event work is necessary for the functioning of the District, safety equipment shall be utilized, and medical attention shall be sought for any employee displaying symptoms of wildfire smoke exposure.

F. The District is committed to open communication with all employees, and they are encouraged to report any wildfire smoke exposure or other health or breathing issues, or shall be able to seek medical attention for such exposure without fear of reprisal or adverse employment action.

Dated this 10<sup>TH</sup> day of September 2024 at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Trails End Water District #2.

 10 Sept 2024  
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COMMISSIONER WATSON

 10 Sept 2024  
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COMMISSIONER MORRIS

  
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COMMISSIONER CARLSON