Stay Safe: Wildfires & COVID-19

Wildfires are creating poor air quality throughout Oregon, and it’s important to protect yourself and your loved ones from this pollution as well as continuing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. If it is safe to stay in your home, you can lessen your exposure to smoke and decrease your risk for contracting COVID-19 by:

- Staying inside if possible. Keep windows and doors closed.
- Avoiding strenuous outdoor activity.
- Being aware of smoke in your area and avoid places with the highest levels.
- Using high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters. These can be portable filters or can be installed in indoor heating, ventilation, cooling and air purification systems.
- If you have heart or lung disease or asthma, follow your health care provider’s advice.
- If you evacuate your home, remember to take face coverings and hand sanitizer with you to help protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Stay informed and stay safe. Follow evacuation orders and learn more at https://wildfire.oregon.gov.

A Reminder About Masks

While it is still important to wear a mask to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, surgical and cloth masks do not protect us from damaging smoke particles. N95 respirators may help provide protection from smoke, but keep in mind the following:

- They must be tested to ensure proper fit and be worn correctly. Otherwise, they might just provide a false sense of security.
- They are not available in children’s sizes and are not recommended for strenuous activities.
• They are also in limited supply due to COVID-19.

Resources:
• Watch this video OHA's Public Health Division for more information
• To learn more about wildfire smoke and COVID-19, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website.
• Sign up for emergency notifications.
  o For Washington and Multnomah County residents, sign up here.
  o Yamhill County residents can sign up here.
  o Clatsop County residents can sign up here.
  o Columbia County residents can sign up here.
• Oregon Smoke Information updates an interactive map with the locations of current fires and the latest information about air quality advisories.
• Some may be experiencing power outages from safety shutoffs or weather conditions. A map of Portland General Electric’s current power outages can be found here and Pacific Power’s outage map is here.
• Many roads may be closed because of the fires. If possible, remain close to home. If you must travel, be cautious and please check Oregon Department of Transportation's TripCheck for the latest conditions
• Tips for how to keep your animals safe can be found here. Most evacuation fairgrounds accept livestock.
• Guide to understanding the evacuation levels can be found here
• Tips for how to prepare for an evacuation can be found here.
• The Red Cross is offering temporary evacuation and shelter locations for those who need to leave their homes.