

Table 3 Recommended Actions for Public Health Officials²³

AQI Category (AQI Values)	PM_{2.5} or PM₁₀ Levels (µg/m³, 1- to 3-hr avg.)	PM_{2.5} or PM₁₀ Levels (µg/m³, 8-hr avg.)	PM_{2.5} or PM₁₀ Levels (µg/m³, 24-hr avg.)	Visibility - Arid Conditions (miles)	Recommended Actions
Good (0 to 50)	0 – 38	0 – 22	0 – 15	≥ 11	If smoke event forecast, implement communication plan
Moderate (51 to 100)	39 – 88	23 – 50	16 – 35	6 – 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue public service announcements (PSAs) advising public about health effects and symptoms and ways to reduce exposure • Distribute information about exposure avoidance
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101 to 150)	89 – 138	51 – 79	36 – 65	3 – 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If smoke event projected to be prolonged, evaluate and notify possible sites for cleaner air shelters • If smoke event projected to be prolonged, prepare evacuation plans
Unhealthy (151 to 200)	139 – 351	80 – 200	66 – 150	1.5 – 2.75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider “Smoke Day” for schools (i.e., no school that day), possibly based on school environment and travel considerations • Consider canceling public events, based on public health and travel considerations
Very Unhealthy (201 to 300)	352 – 526	201 – 300	151 – 250	1 – 1.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider closing some or all schools (However, newer schools with a central air cleaning filter may be more protective than older, leakier homes. See “Closures”, below) • Cancel outdoor events (e.g., concerts and competitive sports)
Hazardous (> 300)	> 526	> 300	> 250	< 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close Schools • Cancel outdoor events (e.g., concerts and competitive sports) • Consider closing workplaces not essential to public health • If PM level projected to continue to remain high for a prolonged time, consider evacuation of sensitive populations

² These 1- and 8-hr PM_{2.5} levels are estimated using the 24-hr breakpoints of the PM_{2.5} Air Quality Index included in the February 7, 2007 issue paper (http://www.epa.gov/airnow/aqi_issue_paper_020707.pdf) by dividing the 24-hr concentrations by the following ratios: 8-hr ratio is 0.7, 1-hr ratio is 0.4. Visibility is based on 1-hr values. If only PM₁₀ measurements are available during smoky conditions, it can be assumed that the PM₁₀ is composed primarily of fine particles (PM_{2.5}), and that therefore the AQI and associated cautionary statements and advisories for PM_{2.5} may be used. This assumption is reflected in the column headings for Table 3.

³ Washington and Montana have developed more precautionary breakpoints, which can be found at: <http://www.deq.mt.gov/FireUpdates/BreakpointsRevised.asp> and <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/pdfs/WAQA.pdf>