



**DISASTER
MANAGEMENT**
CITY OF BOULDER • BOULDER COUNTY

Wildfire Smoke Preparedness

Wildfire smoke can travel hundreds of miles - meaning smoke from wildfires near and far can impact your health.

WILDFIRE SMOKE



- Temperature, wind, and topography impact how and where smoke travels and settles
- **Large smoke particles** irritate the eyes, nose, and throat
- **Small smoke particles** irritate the lungs, and can impact the heart and other organs



ASSESS YOUR RISK



Those at higher risk due to smoke exposure include:

- Children
- Older adults
- People with heart or lung disease
- People who work outdoors

You can find air quality information at www.airnow.gov, or sign-up for air quality notifications from the US Environmental Protection Agency at <https://www.enviroflash.info/>

ACTION STEPS



BEFORE A FIRE:

- Create a clean air room - one where you can close all windows and doors, and create clean air by using an air cleaner or do-it-yourself air filter (instructions on how to make one are on the back of this handout)
- Replace old filters in air conditioners, heaters, or central HVAC systems with MERV 13 filters
- Familiarize yourself with your HVAC system to understand how to shut off outside air intake
- Plan ahead for how you'll reduce smoke risk for yourself, and your pets/animals when smoke is in the air



WHEN SMOKE IS IN THE AIR:

- Check the air quality (www.airnow.gov), and follow guidance
- Stay indoors and use an air cleaner or air filters
- Wear a tight fitting respirator mask that will protect against ash - look for the words "NIOSH" and "N95" printed on the mask

SMOKE PREPAREDNESS SUPPLY LIST

- Air cleaner or do-it-yourself air filter



- Well-fitted, clean air filters installed on your air conditioning and heating systems



- N95 mask



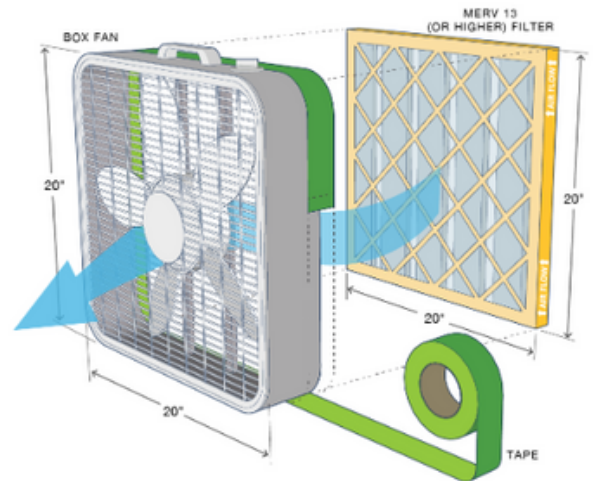
POST-FIRE ACTION STEPS



AFTER A FIRE:

- Clean up ash and smoke damage before children, pets, or other sensitive groups return home
- Be safe while cleaning - wear gloves, a mask, long sleeved shirt, pants, shoes and socks, and change out of these clothes into clean clothes before leaving the cleanup site
- Wipe down and clean:
 - Walls
 - Floors
 - Surfaces
 - Cupboards
 - Dishes
 - Furniture
 - Window treatments
 - Bedding
 - Clothing
- Replace filters in your HVAC system or air cleaners
- Consider having air ducts cleaned

Do-it-yourself box fan air filter



Supply list:

- 20" box fan
- 20" MERV 13 air filter
- Duct tape

To put your air filter together:

1. Place the fan on a flat surface so that the front (side that blows air out) faces away from you, and the back (where air gets pulled into the fan) is toward you.
2. Look for the arrow on the MERV 13 filter that shows which way the air should flow - when attached to back of the fan, the arrow on the filter should point toward the fan.
3. Line the filter up with the side of the fan that is closest to you (where the air gets pulled in) and use the duct tape to attach the MERV 13 filter to the fan.
4. Plug it in and use - the air coming out will be filtered!



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FOR MORE PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION



www.boulderodm.gov/preparedness