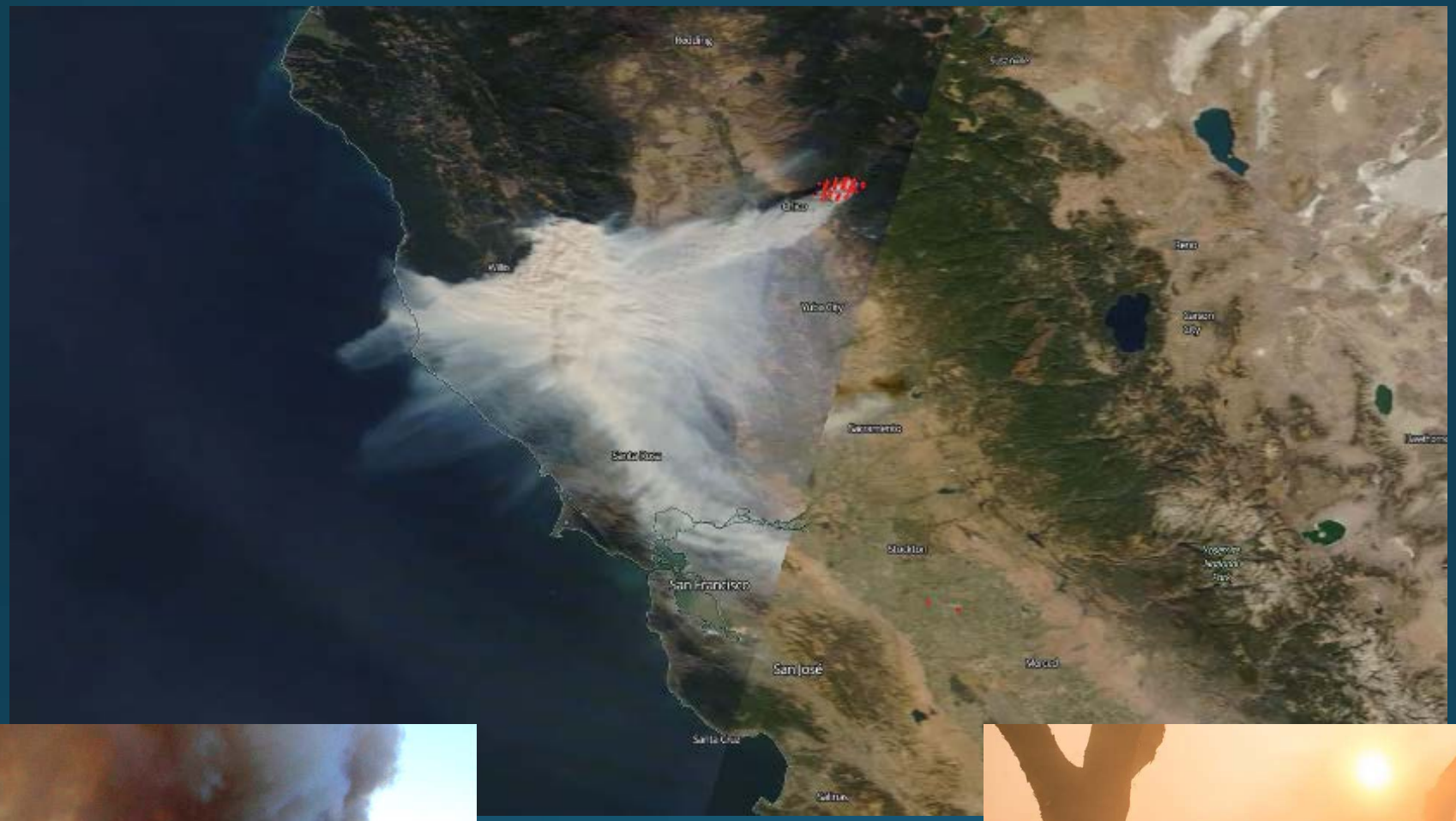
Respiratory Protection for Non-Traditional Workers

Kevin Riley, PhD MPH

UCLA Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program (LOSH)


San Francisco
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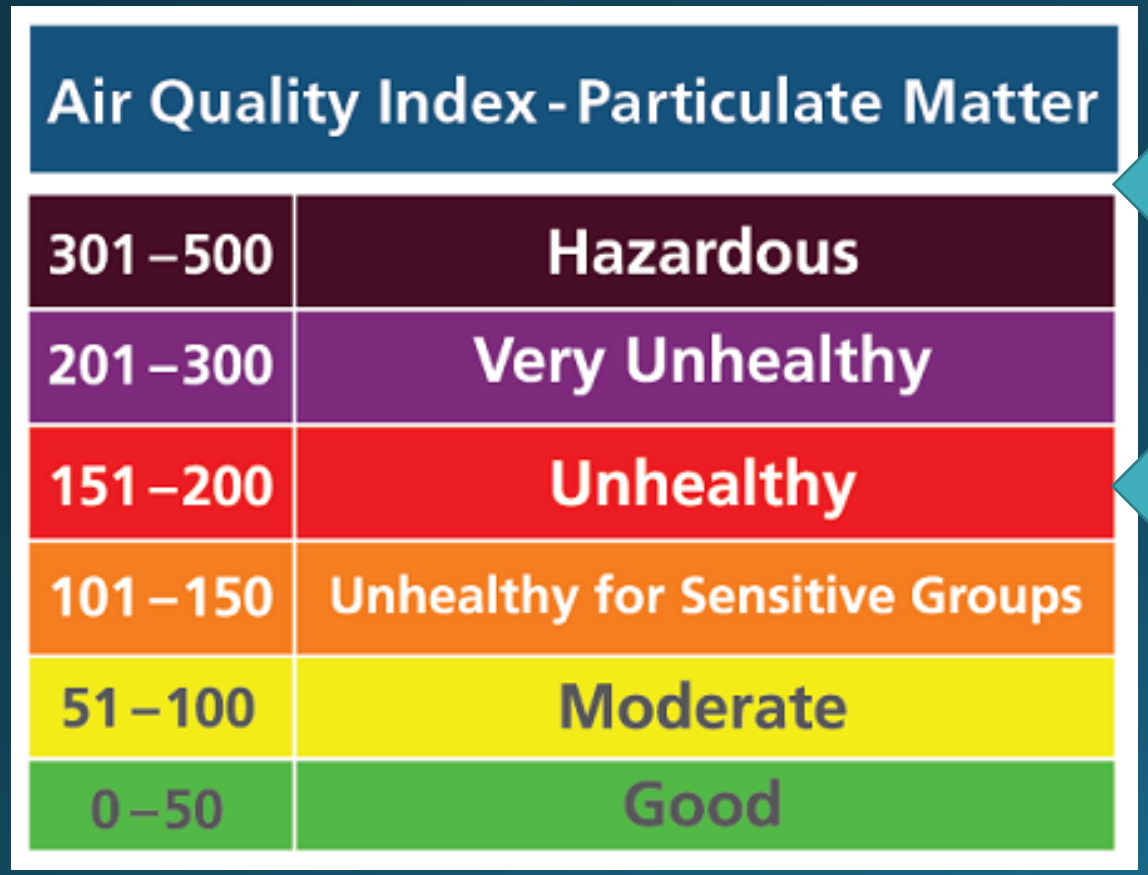
Who is covered under the Cal/OSHA Standard?

Workers in the vicinity of wildfires fires where the Air Quality Index (AQI) for PM2.5 is 151 or greater due to smoke and ash

The standard does not apply to wildland firefighters, workers in buildings/structures with mechanical ventilation or filtered air, workers exposed to unfiltered air with AQI of 151 or greater for less than one hour per shift

https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/doshreg/Protection-from-Wildfire-Smoke/Wildfire-smoke-emergency-standard.html

Air Quality Index for PM2.5



Mandatory respiratory protection

Voluntary respiratory protection

Monitoreo del Índice de la Calidad del Aire para PM2.5

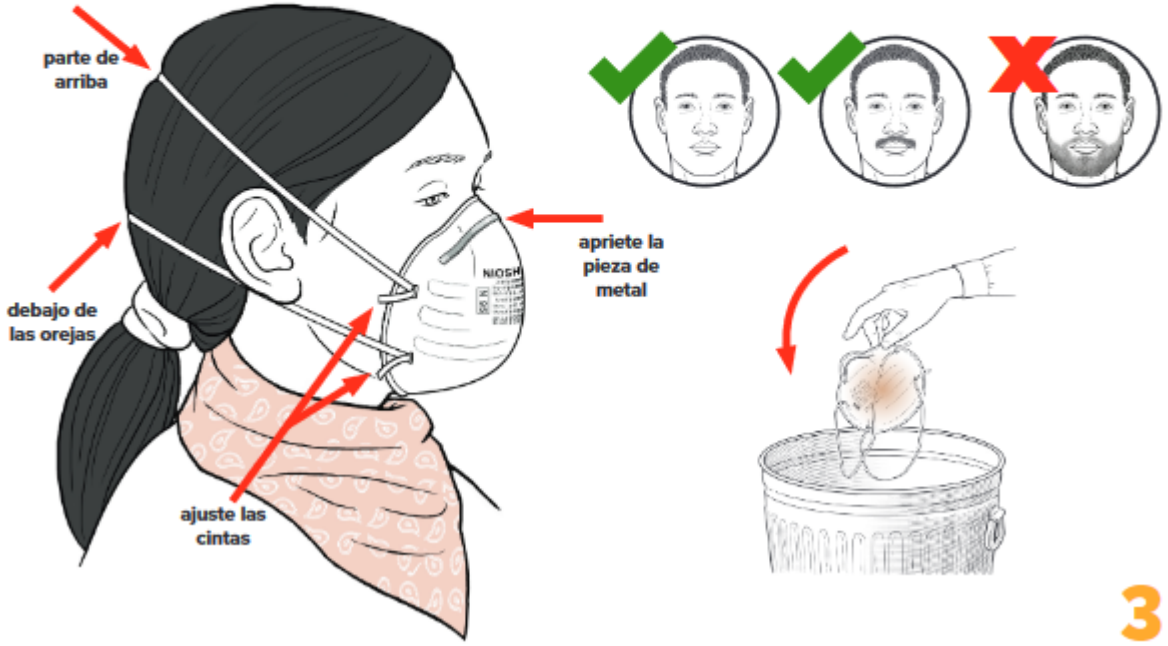
Índice de la Calidad del Aire	
301–500	Peligroso
201–300	Muy dañino
151–200	Dañino
101–150	Dañino para grupos susceptibles
51–100	Moderado
0–50	Bueno

UC DAVIS Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety

Para más información: aghealth.ucdavis.edu/wildfires

Por actualizaciones Subchapter 7. General Industry Safety Orders, Group 16. Control of Hazardous Substances, Article 107. Dust, Fumes, Mists, Vapors and Gases. Section 5141.1 Protection from Wildfire Smoke adopted on July 29, 2019.

Respiradores



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By Teresa Cotsirilos

August 07, 2019

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A lone palm tree against the smoke of the Woolsey Fire.

(Photo courtesy of Peter Buschmann/USFS)

When the Woolsey Fire started last November, Eladio Osorio was standing in front of a Malibu labor center, trying to drum up work. He and the other day laborers could see the black smoke unfurling in the distance. Then a man pulled up and said he had a special job for them.

"I need help, maybe four or five people to help me keep the fire away from my house," Osorio remembers him saying.

Osorio had never fought a fire before, and he didn't have any gear. In an interview with La Opinión, one of Los Angeles' Spanish-language newspapers, he said the man drove Osorio and several other laborers to a tony house in Malibu. Osorio says he could see the wildfire in the distance, burning behind laborers protected the house for 24 hours, sleeping in shifts and spraying everything ould think of and asked them not to leave me," he says,

Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA

Getty fire: Housekeepers and gardeners go to work despite the flames

KTLA 5 NEWS
LIVE
14:13 / 2:51:41

- Critical need for education – for both workers *and* employers
- Intersection of respiratory protection with:
  - Other environmental hazards (e.g., heat)
  - Incentive structures that drive pace of work (e.g., piece rate payment schemes in agriculture)
- Recognition of potential long-term health impacts of exposures
- When feasible, focus on other forms of exposure control that don't rely on personal protective equipment
- Evaluation of Cal/OSHA Wildfire Smoke Standard, particularly for precarious workforces

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