

COMMUNITY PLANNING FOR WILDFIRE SMOKE

Preparing for Wildfire Smoke

- **Collaborate** with local emergency staff, health authorities, or community volunteers to **tailor emergency plans** to include considerations for wildfire smoke safety in ways that reflect local needs and resources.
- **Support community gathering centres** including schools, childcare centres, care homes, and health centres in creating smoke resilience plans to reduce exposure during smoke events (see ASHRAE Guidelines for sample smoke resilience plans).
- **Establish local air monitoring** by using tools like the [WeatherCAN app](#) or [AQmap](#) to track air quality in real time. Air quality alerts may not always reflect current conditions of the geographic location. If air quality reports are not accurate for the community, consider installing local air quality monitors - ideally both indoor and outdoor - at a communal gathering space or public space.
- **Raise awareness and share resources** to reduce smoke risks and inform community members of designated cool & cleaner air spaces, if available.

Responding During Smoke Events

- **Establish cool & cleaner air spaces** that are protected from smoke intrusion by:
 - Closing windows and doors (if temperatures permit).
 - Blocking drafts with towels, tape, or plastic sheets.
 - Using portable HEPA air cleaners or a [DIY box fan filter](#) if HEPA-level filters are not accessible.
 - Using MERV 13 + and carbon filters to reduce odour and particulate pollutants.
 - Spaces could also be equipped with bottled water, chairs and blankets, fans and A/C units, and information about extreme heat and smoke safety.
- **Assist community members** who may not be able to reach cleaner air spaces or collect equipment on their own by arranging delivery through local staff, health teams, or community volunteers where possible.
- **Conduct wellness checks** by phone or in person, particularly for older adults, people living alone, or those with pre-existing health concerns. Communities may use the check-in to ensure they have access to supplies, cleaner air spaces, and health services.