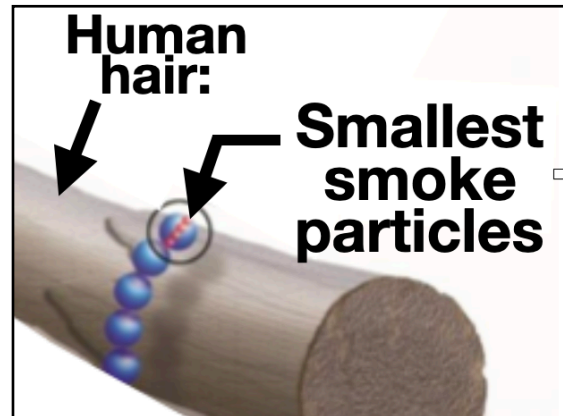




What to do Today to Prepare for Wildfire Smoke

The Smoke Danger

Wildfire smoke contains particles as small as .4 microns - less than 1/100th the diameter of a human hair. Those particles can go deep into your lungs and into your bloodstream and cause major problems!



Stock up on Groceries

Keep an eye on wildfire related news and if it looks like smoke is on the way, stock up on groceries before smoke arrives, so you can avoid having to go out to shop on smokey days.

Don't Use Forced Air Heating/Cooling

If you have air intake vents and heating/cooling vents in each room then you have forced air heating and cooling. Our forced air heating/cooling systems are not sealed from out side air - they bring in some outside air through a valve. If a smoke emergency happens, RV maintenance will close the values that bring in outside air. Once they do that, you can use your air conditioner!

Keep Doors and Windows Closed & Stay Inside

In a smoke emergency, the air inside your apartment will be healthier than the air outside. Keep doors and windows closed and stay inside as much as you can. If you must go outside, use an N95 mask (see below).

Get a Portable Air Purifier

A portable air purifier (together with a clean room - see next item) is your best protection against wildfire smoke. Get one with a HEPA filter or equivalent. For a list of options from Consumer Reports - or to learn how to build your own air filter from a box fan - see the Ready Force web pages at rvillagers.org under "Health and Safety". Air purifiers will be impossible to get quickly once a smoke emergency happens, so get one today!

Get Materials for Making a Clean Room

A clean room is simply a room in your apartment (probably a bedroom) that has its windows sealed-off and a portable air filter. This approach is very effective at providing healthier air in the one room. For details on how to create a clean room (and measurements from a PSU lab showing how effective a clean room is) see the video on the Ready Force web pages at rvillagers.org under “Health and Safety”. In addition to an air purifier, what you need is a plastic window-sealing kit - the kind you’d use to seal up drafty windows for the winter.

Get some N95 Masks

N95 masks (with the NIOSH symbol on them) eliminate 95 percent of particles down to .3 microns. They are very effective against wildfire smoke. Use one if you must go outside when it is smokey. To be effective, they must fit well and provide a good seal against your face! (Note that N95 masks are preferred of KN95 masks - but KN95 are certainly better than nothing.)

Consider Getting a Power Station

If there is a power outage during a smoke emergency, then you will not have a way to run your air purifier or charge your phone unless you have a power station - which is basically a big battery with some circuitry that allows you to charge a phone and even plug in small 120 volt appliances. One popular brand is Jackery, but there are many others.

Prepare your Go Bag!

In a wildfire situation there is always the danger of an evacuation, so use the Go Bag checklist in your Red Emergency Binder to prepare a Go Bag! And complete the “emergency contact” and “prescriptions” forms in your Red Binder, and add copies of important documents to your Binder, so your Red Binder becomes one of your grab-and-go items if you need to evacuate.