

Wildfire Smoke Risk Questionnaire

This questionnaire is part of a project, conducted by the Desert Research Institute (Reno) in collaboration with Storey County Emergency Management, that will make local air quality data and wildfire smoke risk information available to the public. The purpose of the questionnaire is to learn what people think and know about wildfire smoke risk so that we understand what information will be most helpful to provide.

Please consider taking part in this questionnaire if you are 18 years of age or older and a resident of Storey County. The questionnaire does not ask for any sensitive information and can be taken completely anonymously. If you feel uncomfortable answering any of the questions, you can skip them, or exit the questionnaire at any time.

The questionnaire should take about 5-10 minutes to complete, though if you choose to provide optional written responses, it may take longer. Please take part in the questionnaire only one time.

If you have any questions about the project, please contact Kristin VanderMolen at the Desert Research Institute (Kristin.VanderMolen@dri.edu).

Lastly, if you have concerns or complaints about the project, you may report them (anonymously if you choose) by calling the University of Nevada, Reno, Research Integrity Office at (775) 327-2368.

Part I - Wildfire Smoke Risk: This section of the questionnaire asks for your opinion about a series of statements related to wildfire smoke risk and protective measures. For each statement, please select which option (from the below scale) best reflects your opinion.

The scale should be interpreted as follows:

True: To the best of my knowledge, this statement is true.

Maybe True: I think this statement might be true.

Don't Know: I don't know if this statement is true or false.

Maybe False: I think this statement might be false.

False: To the best of my knowledge, this statement is false.

1. Wildfires sometimes burn homes, buildings, and towns, so it is possible for wildfire smoke to contain a variety of pollutants beyond those produced from burned forests.

True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

2. In general, people can gauge whether they should take measures to protect their health from wildfire smoke by looking outside.

True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

3. There is not much that a person can do to protect themselves from wildfire smoke besides staying inside with the windows and doors closed.

True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

4. Groups that are especially vulnerable to negative health impacts from wildfire smoke include: children, pregnant women, seniors, outdoor workers, and people with certain chronic conditions like COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).

True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

5. Using a face covering (e.g., a mask or respirator) will not protect a person from wildfire smoke.

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

6. Portable air cleaners (also known as air purifiers or air sanitizers) can improve indoor air quality when wildfire smoke is present.

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

7. An HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) system with an air filter should be run continuously to improve indoor air quality when wildfire smoke is present.

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

8. Wildfire smoke does not pose any negative health impacts to healthy adults.

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

9. A portable air cleaner used in one room will significantly improve indoor air quality throughout an entire house or building.

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

10. Cloth face masks are not a good means of protection from wildfire smoke.

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

11. Temporarily vacating a location (e.g., town, city, or region) where wildfire smoke is present is the best way to protect oneself from related negative health impacts.

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

12. A person should stay indoors when wildfire smoke is present ONLY if they feel physically sick from the smoke.

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

13. Any type of filter (e.g., HEPA, electrostatic) used in portable air cleaners and HVAC systems is effective at removing wildfire smoke pollutants.

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

14. Paper (or surgical) face masks offer only limited protection from wildfire smoke.

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

15. In general, the negative physical health impacts from wildfire smoke are only minor (e.g., headaches, cough, sore throat, burning eyes).

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

16. The benefits of portable air cleaners to human health are greatest when the air cleaners are moved into the rooms of a house or building where people are present.

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

17. Knowing what the air quality level is when wildfire smoke is present can help people make informed decisions about protecting their health.

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

18. Portable air cleaner filters and HVAC system filters should be checked frequently, especially during the wildfire season, and cleaned or replaced as needed to remain effective.

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

19. Of all types of face coverings, N95 respirators offer the greatest protection from wildfire smoke.

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

20. Wildfire smoke does not pose impacts to mental health (e.g., anxiety and depression).

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

21. Reducing outdoor activity (e.g., exercise and yardwork) when wildfire smoke is present can be important for protecting the health of EVERYONE.

- True Maybe true Don't know Maybe false False

22. Do you have any questions about wildfire smoke risk and protection? Or is there particular information about wildfire smoke risk and protection that you would like to know?

23. What is the best way for Storey County Emergency Management to share information with you about wildfire smoke risk and protection? (Select all that apply.)

- Storey County website and/or social media
- City/town website and/or social media
- Local newspaper
- Local fire department
- Senior Center
- Flyers posted or handed out locally
- Pamphlets in local medical offices
- Word-of-mouth
- Community Facebook page
- School Facebook page
- Signs / electronic billboard
- Other (please explain): _____

Part II - Background: This brief section of the questionnaire asks some basic demographic questions.

24. Please indicate your age.

- 18-30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51-60
- 61-70
- 71+
- Prefer not to say

25. Please indicate your gender.

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

26. Please provide the name of the city, town, or community you live in: _____

27. Please provide the name of the county you live in: _____

28. What is your primary occupation? _____

29. Is there anything else you would like to share about the topics addressed in this questionnaire?

THANK YOU!