



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRE ALERT III

Tuesday, October 25, 2007, 10:30 PST

CAHF continues to participate in daily briefings with the California Department of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Office regarding the fires and evacuations in Southern California. The following is the latest in a series of updates.

Please notify Jocelyn Montgomery at jmontgomery@cahf.org with any questions you may have, or if your facility has been impacted by the fires. We are sharing your reports and questions with the state emergency authorities.

GUIDANCE FROM CDPH REGARDING THE USE OF MASKS IN SMOKEY SITUATIONS

DPH has provided the following guidance regarding the use of masks, particularly N-95 particulate respirators, on vulnerable populations. (Please note: A surgical mask is unlikely to be effective in this situation and may be mildly irritating to the wearer.)

Should hospitals, clinics, or long-term care facilities located in smoky areas consider putting N95 masks or other respirators on patients or staff to protect them from health effects associated with fire smoke?

- Facilities should keep indoor air as clean as possible by:
 - Keeping windows and doors closed;
 - Closing fresh air intakes and recirculating indoor air;
 - Ensuring that air handling system filters are installed properly;
 - Using air system filters with higher-efficiency filtration where possible;
 - Using portable air cleaners (with HEPA filtration) adequately sized for rooms, if available;
 - Not using ozone-generating equipment including air cleaners and ionizers;
 - Minimizing indoor sources of air pollution (such as vacuuming or floor polishing).

- We do not advise putting N95 masks or other respirators on persons whose health status is compromised or who are elderly, because the increased resistance associated with breathing through a respirator may pose a health risk to the wearer.

- Use of N95 masks or other respirators by employees or other healthy persons may reduce exposure to particles in fire smoke if used properly and would not likely pose a health risk to wearers. However, how closely the respirator seals to the face will determine its effectiveness at reducing exposure. Without conducting a fit test, the level of protection for the individual wearer is unknown.

IMPACTED FACILITIES

If you are an impacted facility that needs disaster-related resources, supplies or information, call your local Emergency Operations Center for advice and/or referral to the proper agency. Numbers are listed below. Also, please visit our website at www.cahf.org/public/dpp for information related to this and other disasters.

Los Angeles County EOC: (323) 980-2102

Riverside County EOC: (951) 955-4700

San Diego County EOC: (858) 565-3490

At this time, Santa Barbara County has stood down their Emergency Operations Center

Orange County EOC: (714) 628-7060

San Bernardino County EOC: (909) 356-3998

Ventura County EOC: (805) 223-6873