

INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA (ISC) – ALBERTA REGION

Air Purifier Support – During Wildfire Season

**Adapted from FNHA May 18, 2023 factsheet and Health Canada Choosing an Air Purifier*

Wildfire smoke is a complex mixture of air pollutants, including small particles that can cause irritation and inflammation when inhaled. Smoke can enter buildings through windows, doors, vents, air intakes, and other openings.

Public health evidence tells us that certain people are more at risk from wildfire smoke. This may include individuals with high risk vulnerabilities for acute exacerbation due to wildfire smoke, such as:

- Individuals with **asthma**
- Individuals with **heart disease or diabetes**
- Individuals with **respiratory issues**
- Babies or infants
- Elderly
- Pregnancy

Your community may be eligible for **air purifier support** during wildfire season should there be significant risk of poor air quality due to wildfire smoke.

Choose an air purifier that meets the following criteria:

- ✓ **AHAM Certified** (Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers)
- ✓ **Able to clean the square footage of the area** where it will be located, ideally where people spend most of their time. Square footage capability of the air purifier will be indicated on the AHAM label.
- ✓ **Designated as HEPA filter** (High-Efficiency Particulate Air) or electrostatic precipitator
- ✓ **Clean Air Delivery Rate (CADR) rated for tobacco smoke** as this is most similar to wildfire smoke. This will be indicated on the AHAM label. The higher the number, the more particles the air purifier can remove. The CADR should be equal to at least two-thirds of the room's area.



! AVOID air purifiers that produce ozone as ozone can impact your health. The California Air Regulator Board (CARB) lists units that have passed testing for ozone emissions.

Connect with your local **Environmental Public Health Officer** for further information and guidance regarding air quality, air purifiers, and, clean air shelters.

Consult your **Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP) Advisor** for information regarding funding eligibility for the purchase of portable air purifiers for **community settings**. Portable air purifiers may be considered eligible for placement in **high-risk individual's homes** on a **case-by-case basis**.

For more information and resources regarding wildfire smoke and air purifiers visit the [Alberta One Health, Health Emergency Management webpage](#).

