In the recent years the chances of a damaging wildfire has increased between the months of May and September. It is important to stay prepared. The best way to protect yourself and your family is to:

1. Stay informed: monitor weather, listen to local authorities and prepare to evacuate.
2. Keep your vehicle fueled.
3. Follow instructions to evacuate, bring your emergency kit.
4. Only re-enter buildings once instructed by officials and community leaders.

**Be Prepared**

Be prepared and make a plan. An emergency plan is a playbook for how you the people you live with and even a workplace will respond to disasters, including wildfires. Knowing what to do will reduce anxiety and help you stay focused and safe. Reach out to your health and safety representative to familiarize yourself with your organizations Emergency Procedures.

**Wildfire Smoke**

Wildfire smoke is a complex mixture of particles and gases containing chemicals: carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen oxides. Potential health effects include long term health effects such as increased risk of cancer or other chronic health problems. The health effects from wildfire smoke depend on the level, duration of exposure, age of individual, and many other factors. Not everyone exposed to smoke will be affected in the same way.

**Reducing Exposure**

If you work outdoors the primary method to minimize health risks of wildfire smoke is to reduce contact with the smoke as much as possible. Look for ways to relocate work to less smoky areas or reschedule until air quality improves. Wildfire smoke can affect the quality of indoor air. Steps that can be taken to reduce wildfire smoke entering your building:

* Ensure the HVAC system works properly
* Check HVAC system air filters
* Temporarily reduce the intake of outdoor air

**For additional resources:**

1. **BCMSA Webinars:** [**www.bcmsa.ca/what-we-do/webinars/**](http://www.bcmsa.ca/what-we-do/webinars/)
2. **WorkSafeBC Wildfire FAQ** [**www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/information-sheets/wildfire-smoke-frequently-asked-questions-faq?lang=en**](http://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/information-sheets/wildfire-smoke-frequently-asked-questions-faq?lang=en)

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| **MEETING DESCRIPTION** | | | |
| **Meeting Date:** |  | **Time:** |  |
| **Location:** |  | **Supervisor:** |  |
| **Number in Crew:** |  | **Number Attended:** |  |
| **Attended By:** |  |  | **Absent** |
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| **REVIEW ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING** | **INCIDENTS/INJURIES REVIEWED** |
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| **TOPICS DISCUSSED** |
| 1. **Wildfire Preparedness** |
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| **WORKERS CONCERNS** |
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| **CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN** |
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| **MEETING CONDUCTED BY** | | | |
| **Supervisor:** |  | **Manager:** |  |
| **Date:** |  | **Date:** |  |