

## SCHOOLS INSURANCE AUTHORITY

## **ATTENTION:**

## Facilities, Risk Management, School Site Managers

## Safety Bulletin – Smoke and Air Quality *August 2024*

Wildfire smoke can significantly degrade air quality. Follow these guidelines to help safeguard the well-being of students and staff:

- Examine your district's policies and procedures for responding to poor air quality.
- Continuously monitor local air quality and PM2.5 levels via: www.airnow.gov
- Conduct a full maintenance check on the HVAC system, addressing any necessary repairs and reviewing the filter replacement schedule.
- Optimize HVAC system settings to minimize smoke infiltration.
- Secure indoor spaces and ensure doors and windows remain closed during smoke events.
- Prepare alternative plans for outdoor activities such as lunch, recess, PE, and sporting activities.
- Modify work schedules and outdoor projects to protect employees from exposure.
- Recommended actions and additional resources:
  - o Guidance for Schools During Wildfire Smoke Events (ca.gov)
  - School Air Quality Activity Recommendations Air Quality (CA Dept of Education)
  - California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5141.1.
    Protection from Wildfire Smoke.