

AIR QUALITY AND YOUR CREWS

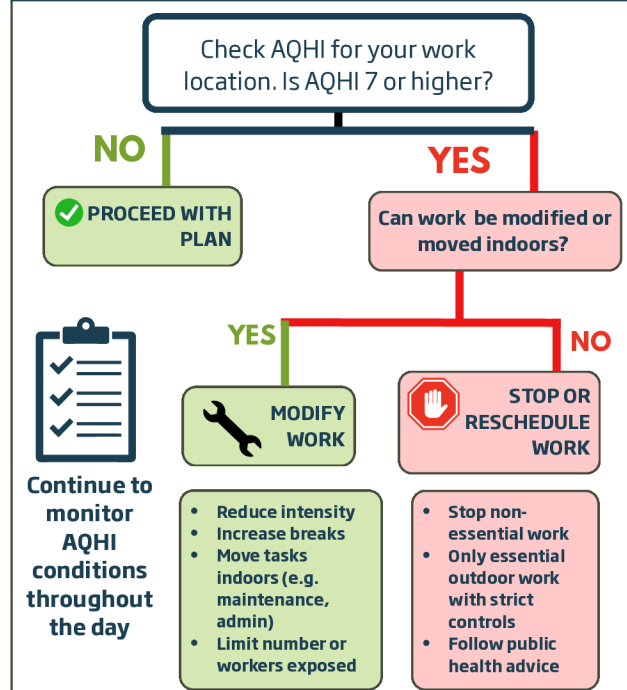


AIR QUALITY HEALTH INDEX (AQHI) – WHAT IT MEANS

AQHI	RISK LEVEL	HEALTH MESSAGE	OUTDOOR WORK GUIDANCE
1-3	LOW	Air quality good. Enjoy your usual outdoor activities	Continue normal operations while monitoring conditions
4-6	MODERATE	Air quality is acceptable. Some may experience minor symptoms	- Proceed with planned work - Increase monitoring, encourage hydration - Review strenuous work
7-10	HIGH	At-risk populations may experience symptoms	- Consider modifying work - Increase breaks - Limit heavy exertion - Monitor crew for symptoms
>10	VERY HIGH	Everyone may experience symptoms. Health risks increase with prolonged exposure	- Reduce or reschedule heavy work - Increase rest and recovery - Move work to enclosed areas where possible
>10	EXTREME	Health warning of emergency conditions. Everyone is at risk	- Stop or move all non-essential outdoor work indoors. - Essential outdoor work only with strict controls - Follow public health advice

Check current AQHI at www.airqualityontario.com

WORK DECISION TREE



Check current AQHI regularly, conditions can change quickly

SUPERVISOR SMOKE RESPONSE CHECKLIST

BEFORE LEAVING THE YARD

- Check the AQHI forecast for the work location
- Review work plan and identify modifications
- Identify at-risk workers (consider new workers)
- Ensure water and rest breaks are planned
- Ensure communication devices are charged

AT THE WORKSITE

- Check AQHI again on arrival
- Assess visibility and smoke intensity
- Notify crew of conditions and plan
- Increase monitoring for symptoms
- Adjust work as conditions change

DURING THE DAY

- Re-check AQHI regularly (at least every 2-3 hours)
- Stop or modify if AQHI increases to 7 or higher
- Provide additional breaks
- Encourage workers to report symptoms

END OF DAY REVIEW

- Review AQHI trends and decisions made
- Document any symptoms or incidents
- Identify changes needed for the next day

SYMPTOMS TO WATCH FOR

Smoke exposure can irritate the eyes, nose, throat and lungs

MILD

- Watery eyes
- Runny nose
- Cough
- Throat irritation
- Mild headache

MODERATE

- Persistent cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chest tightness
- Fatigue
- Difficulty concentrating

SEVERE: GET HELP

- Trouble breathing
- Chest pain
- Severe headache
- Dizziness
- Confusion

RESPIRATORS: WHAT WORKS & LIMITATIONS

N95 RESPIRATORS



- May provide some relief in moderate smoke
- Not designed for heavy smoke
- Do not protect eyes
- Uncomfortable for long periods
- Not suitable for beards (poor seal)
- Not a substitute for engineering or administrative controls

BETTER CONTROLS



Move work Indoors



Modify schedule or reduce intensity



Use enclosed cabs with proper filtration



Reduce time outdoors



Respirators are a last line of defence

FIELD EXAMPLES (LANDSCAPE OPERATIONS)

AQHI-MODERATE

Crew planting annuals AQHI forecast 5, rising to 8 by 2pm

Action: Proceed with plan, increase hydration and monitor conditions



AQHI-HIGH

Hedge trimming planned AQHI now 8

Action: Modify work. Shift to irrigation maintenance and equipment check



AQHI-VERY HIGH

Hardscape installation planned. AQHI now 12 with heavy smoke

Action: Stop outdoor work. Move indoors for training and equipment maintenance



SUPERVISOR REMINDER

Smoke can get worse throughout the day. Plan for change. When in doubt, reduce, modify or stop

