

# Wildfire Smoke Operating Guidelines



## INTRODUCTION

Tahoe Donner recognizes that wildfire smoke is now a regular health and safety concern for its members, guests, and employees for many months of the year. Our overarching goal is to provide a healthy and safe environment for all these groups while also allowing for individual decision-making where appropriate. This operating guideline provides a structure for decision-making when wildfire smoke is anticipated and where it may impact programs and operations. A separate workplace policy is established for employees who may be exposed to wildfire smoke during their shifts.

## OPERATING GUIDELINES

- If the Air Quality Index (AQI) is under 300 or forecasted to be under 300 during operating hours, operations and programs will remain open.
- If the AQI is 300 and above, TDA may close operations for the day based on the air quality outside and inside of TDA buildings. A day-by-day call may be made, or a temporary closure period established based on AQI forecasts.
- All outdoor programming will be brought indoors, where feasible when the AQI is 151 and above.
- We will strongly recommend limiting outdoor sporting activities that are strenuous and for those in the sensitive category when the AQI is above 101. Indoor sporting activities will be allowed with AQI below 300; above 301 AQI may necessitate changes to planned indoor activities. Ventilation varies among TDA's facilities; thus, management may make site-specific decisions on indoor activities as the need arises.

*Please refer to Appendix A: Tahoe Donner Association Guidelines for Outdoor Activity based on AQI.*

## HOW DO WE MAKE WILDFIRE SMOKE OPERATING IMPACT ASSESSMENTS?

Tahoe Donner uses the AirNow.gov and PurpleAir.com (Tahoe Donner sensors) websites to monitor current AQI each day to assess the risk level. We also consider the following:

- Types of facilities and ventilation systems each has
- Types and intensity of planned activities and whether they can be modified to minimize exposure and length of time to exposure
- Duration of planned activities indoor and outdoor
- What are community partners doing as operating and program modifications

## WHO MAKES THE CALL TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE OPERATIONS OR CANCEL PROGRAMS?

Among other authorities, the General Manager, or other designated employee, has the authority to temporarily close facilities, operations, and programs when there is a health and safety concern. This is not without notice to the board of directors advising them of actions. In the case of wildfire smoke operating modifications or closures, the leadership team will evaluate the impact assessment and communicate changes.

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## HOW WILL MEMBERS AND GUESTS BE NOTIFIED?

Tahoe Donner will use all available communication channels to update members, guests and employees on operating modifications and closures. This may include dedicated emails, website updates, text messaging, and social media.

## WHAT IS TDA'S REFUND POLICY IF A PROGRAM IS CANCELLED?

If Tahoe Donner cancels a program day, efforts will be made to reschedule, similar to practices for cancellation of swim lessons for pool closures relating to thunder and lightning storms. Should TDA cancel a program for an extended period, consideration will be given towards credit to a future program. Daily facility use fees will not be refunded if already in use.

### Accompanying Documentation:

- Appendix A: Guidelines for Outdoor Activity Based on Air Quality Levels
- Appendix B: Employee Wildfire Smoke Safety Policy

### Resources:

- [OSHA Title 8, section 5141.1](#)
- [CDC Wildfire Smoke](#)
- [EPA Air Now](#)
- [Purple Air](#)

Last Revised Date: July 8, 2024

*This policy will undergo updates as wildfire smoke guidance evolves, technological advancements occur, or regulations change.*

# Appendix A: TDA Guidelines for Outdoor Activity Based On Air Quality Level

Use your best judgment; the AQI reports do not always reflect what we see on the ground.

AQI Value (Air Quality Index)	Level 1: 0-50 Good	Level 2: 51-100 Moderate	Level 3: 101-150 Unhealthy for Sensitive Individuals	Level 4: 151-200 Unhealthy	Level 5: 201-300 Very Unhealthy	Level 6: 301-399 Hazardous	Level 7: 400+ Hazardous
<b>Windows/Doors</b>	OK to Open	OK to Open	Keep Closed	Keep Closed	Keep Closed	Keep Closed	Keep Closed
<b>General Outdoor Activity (15 Minutes- 1 hour)</b>	No Restrictions	Ensure sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	Sensitive individuals should exercise or play indoors.  Ensure sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	Move activities indoors where possible, reduce intensity, and encourage more rest periods.  All youth programming moved indoors, where possible.	Limited outdoor activities, reduce intensity, and encourage more rest periods.	No Outdoor Activity	No Outdoor Activity
<b>Athletic Practices &amp; Training and Athletic Competitions (1-4 Hours)</b>	No Restrictions	Ensure sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	<u>Athletic Activities</u> Limit to 30 minutes per hour of practice time with increased rest breaks and substitutions Encouraged to move indoors if AQI exceeds 101, if possible.  <u>Athletic Competitions</u> Increase rest breaks and substitutions for extreme heat and smoke conditions. Ensure sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	<u>Athletic Activities Indoors</u>  <u>Outdoor Athletic Competitions</u> Cancelled or relocated	<u>Athletic Activities Indoors</u> (monitor indoor air quality to ensure it does not exceed 150)  <u>Outdoor Athletic Competitions</u> Cancelled or relocated	<u>Athletic Activities</u> Cancelled  <u>All Athletic Competitions</u> Cancelled or relocated	<u>Athletic Activities</u> Cancelled  <u>All Athletic Competitions</u> Cancelled or relocated
<b>Operational Status &amp; Employee N95 Respiratory Use</b>	Open	Open	Open  Employees working outdoors, modified schedules to allow more time indoors, where possible - voluntary N95 use	Open  Employees working outdoors, limit outdoor exposure, modify schedules, reduce intensity, and encourage indoor rest periods - voluntary N95 use	Open  Employees working outdoors, limit outdoor exposure, modify schedules, reduce intensity, and encourage indoor rest periods - voluntary N95 use	Potential Smoke Day based on air quality outside and inside of buildings and location  Employees working outdoors – recommended but voluntary N95 use	Smoke Day  Outdoor ops closed
<b>Employee Lunch/Breaks Outdoors</b>	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions Ensure sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	15-30 minutes max with no physical activity	No Outdoor Breaks	No Outdoor Breaks	No Outdoor Breaks

\*Sensitive Individuals include all those with asthma, respiratory or other heart/lung conditions, and anyone at a higher risk of adverse health or safety outcomes when exposed. Some examples include children/infants, seniors, pregnant women, and people with pre-existing conditions.