

WILDFIRE SMOKE OPERATIONAL PLAN & 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 may remain open. However, in all cases where the AQI is between 151-300 modifications to activities will be enacted considering activity, location, and access to indoor areas with lower AQI. Modifications may include limiting time spent outdoors or closing operations and programs.
- 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 is 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 AQL.

YOUTH PROGRAMMING OPERATING GUIDELINES

- If the Air Quality Index (AQI) is sustained at 151 or higher, selective camps and youth programs will be modified to be moved indoors or canceled for that respective day
- If the AQI is between 101 and 150, activities will be modified accordingly to protect youth participants, by reducing outdoor activities/strain and by building in more rest periods between activities.

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

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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.

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.

Resources:

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

- Appendix A: [Guidelines for Outdoor Activity Based on Air Quality Levels](#)
- Appendix B: [Employee Wildfire Smoke Safety Policy](#)

Last Revised Date: August 21, 2024

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