2021 Changes to *Wildfire Smoke: A Guide for Public Health Officials*

**Corrections**

1. Box fan air cleaners - change is made to be consistent with information published during pandemic and the revised Indoor Air Filtration factsheet. (p. 23)

   **New paragraph**
   
   **Do-it-yourself box fan air cleaners**
   
   During a wildfire smoke event, some people may choose to assemble a DIY air cleaner to reduce their exposure to wildfire smoke. Some organizations provide instructions to assemble a do-it-yourself (DIY) box fan air cleaner by attaching a high-efficiency filter to a box fan. Individuals who use a box fan air cleaner should be advised to use newer box fans that have a thermal safety device (fused plug). Any box fan should be used with caution and not left running unattended or when residents are sleeping, to avoid any potential fire or electrical hazard.

   **Original paragraph**
   
   **Do-it-yourself box fan air cleaners**
   
   Some organizations provide instructions to assemble a do-it-yourself (DIY) box fan air cleaner by attaching a high-efficiency filter to a box fan. There is currently some limited evidence to support the filtration efficacy of these DIY devices. However, concerns have been raised that the box fan motor may overheat when operated with a filter attached. We expect there will be more research conducted on the safety and efficacy of DIY air cleaners in the coming years. In the meantime, though there is not enough evidence for us to endorse their use, we acknowledge that during a wildfire smoke event some people may choose to assemble a DIY air cleaner to reduce their exposure to wildfire smoke. Those who make this choice should be advised to use the device with caution and not to operate it unattended or when sleeping, to avoid any potential fire or electrical hazard.

2. Respiratory protection - change is made to correct information - respirators are made and designed for children. Basic message/recommendation is unchanged. (p. 27)

   **Children and respirator use**
   
   *Respirators are not made to fit children and will not protect them from breathing wildfire smoke.* Children are especially at risk from exposure to wildfire smoke because their lungs are still developing. Reduce children’s exposure to wildfire smoke by checking air quality, keeping them indoors, creating a clean air room, and being ready to evacuate if necessary. See also the *children’s health factsheet.*
NIOSH does not currently certify respirators for children. As new research findings on efficacy become available, guidance by U.S. government agencies may be issued on the proper use of respirators by older children.

3. Appendix B - change is made to correct an error and to be consistent with information in body of document. (p. B-1)

Appendix B: Identification and Preparation of Cleaner Air Shelters for Protection of the Public from Wildfire Smoke

3. Install/inspect room air cleaners where appropriate, such as in cleaner air shelters with separate, smaller rooms (e.g. classrooms, meeting rooms). Choose room air cleaners with sufficient capacity, i.e., a tobacco smoke Clean Air Delivery Rate (CADR) that is at least 2/3 the room volume/floor area. Choose an air cleaner with a higher CADR for rooms with ceilings higher than 8ft. Ensure proper maintenance of air cleaners, keep spare filters on hand, and provide instructions on changing the filter to trained personnel.

4. Numerous links were corrected. Most of them were due to the links changing, the rest were correcting links to point to the Fire and Smoke Map rather than older pages.

Changes and Additions
1. Acknowledgments (p. ii)

   For More Information
   Project Lead: Susan Lyon Stone, stone.susan@epa.gov
   Chapter 1 Health Effects: Jason Sacks, sacks.jason@epa.gov
   Chapter 2 Air Quality Impacts: Peter Lahm, peter.lahm@usda.gov
   Chapter 3 Exposure Reduction Strategies: Alison Clune, clune.alison@epa.gov
   Respirators: Tyler Quinn, yhh7@cdc.gov and Maryann D’Alessandro, bpj5@cdc.gov
   Lung Health: Lewis Radonovich, mto5@cdc.gov
   Chapter 4 Air Quality Communication: Mary Hutson, hutson.mary@epa.gov
   Chapter 5 Public Health Actions: Maria Mirabelli, zif7@cdc.gov

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3. Disclaimer added on p. 51 to the section Cleaning up after the fire because we have had questions about this.
Cleaning up after the fire

This section contains general considerations for dealing with ash. It is not intended to replace advice or assessments from professionals or agencies directly involved in cleanup activities.

Even after the worst of the fire and smoke is over there remain health and safety hazards that homeowners should be aware of. Exposure to lingering smoke and ash from a wildfire can cause significant health effects in both healthy individuals and those in at-risk groups. People may experience symptoms including respiratory irritation, heat-related illness, and even emotional stress after a fire. Physical stress from cleanup activities, exposure to toxic chemicals, damaged power lines, and equipment such as portable generators can cause injuries during clean up.