

Bishop Indian Head Start

Wildfire Smoke

Policy and Procedures

Drafted 9.17.20-revised 9.24.20

Purpose: To provide guidance to Bishop Indian Head Start staff regarding **School Air Quality** recommendations to protect student health during poor air quality and with decisions to cancel classes, remain open, or modify school operations.

Policy: BIHS must always maintain a safe school facility while serving children in areas intended for learning, playing, sleeping, toileting, and eating. BIHS will ensure resources, tools and equipment are in place to reduce or free exposure to children, families and staff from pollutants, hazards and toxins that are accessible to children and could endanger children's safety, including hazardous wildfire smoke.

Procedure: Bishop Indian Head Start will utilize AirNow.gov <https://www.airnow.gov/> to monitor the Air Quality Index (AQI). BIHS will monitor the Bishop Paiute Reservation <http://bishoptribeemo.com/monitoring.htm> and the Great Basin Air District reporting areas to determine the area quality for the Bishop and Big Pine area. The BIHS Director, Assistant Director and or assigned staff will make the determination to cancel school programs when the air quality index is between **350-450 (Very Unhealthy-Hazardous)** as measured by AirNow.gov). **Including a visual inspection of outdoor air quality conditions.**

PPE: Air Purifiers for every classroom and office occupied by children and staff, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, KN95 masks.

A. During Wildfire Season

1. The Director or assigned staff will refer to [AirNow.gov](https://www.airnow.gov/) by 6:00am to obtain the current AQI for Bishop CA.
2. The Director or assigned staff will gather the following data (*refer to page 5-6*):
 - a. **PM₁₀**: (particulate matter) inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller; and
 - b. **PM_{2.5}**: (particulate matter) fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.
 - c. Visibility in miles (for transportation)
 - d. Air Quality Index
 - e. Health Category
 - f. Cautionary Statements

3. If the Air Quality Index (AQI) between **350-450 (Very Unhealthy-Hazardous)** BIHS will implement school closure procedures. Please refer to page 5 of this policy for further details. Although there are many hazardous chemicals in wildfire smoke, the main harmful pollutant for people who are not very close to the fire is “particulate matter,” the tiny particles suspended in the air. Particulate matter can irritate the lungs and cause persistent coughing, phlegm, wheezing, or difficulty breathing. Particulate matter can also cause more serious problems, such as reduced lung function, bronchitis, worsening of asthma, heart failure, and early death.
4. The Director or assigned staff will notify staff regarding school closure, school delays and or modifications to school programs. The Director will delegate a BIHS staff(s) members to begin informing all staff members and enrolled parents. In addition, the Director will notify his or her supervisor of the determination to close school, issue a school delay and or modification to operational services.
5. Communication Tools: Bishop Paiute Tribal Radio 96.1 (760-784-9458); Big Pine Paiute Radio 97.7 (760-872-2238) KIBS 100.7(760-873-6324) <https://www.kibskbov.com/contact/>; by text, email and or Child Plus.
6. BIHS will activate the **Child Adult Care Food Program Delivery of Meals/Snacks Service Program**. The CACFP program will be operated under qualified emergency paid volunteers. Qualified Designated volunteers will use Tribal vehicles to transport meals following food safety procedures.
7. If applicable, staff may be provided an option of a Late Start or Telecommuting from home with proper documentation and approval from management.

B. What to do if Hazardous Air Quality Conditions develop while School is in Session

Note: [AirNow.gov](https://www.airnow.gov) (Monitor: Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District White Mountain Research) can usually provide hour by hour Air Quality Readings and provide guidelines for outdoor activity based for sensitive groups. See page 6. If time and conditions permit, **ACTION GO HOME** may be implemented prior to emergency. However, if severe HAZE and or HIGH PM 10 and PM 2.5 (see definition on page 4) develop during business hours with little or no warning, the following EMERGENCY ACTIONS should be followed:

1. Implement ACTIONS: **STAY INSIDE**
2. **Maintain accountability of children and staff.**
3. Staff and children should remain inside school during AQI levels of 151 or higher.
4. Designated staff will ensure all windows and doors remain closed to prevent and or reduce pollutants from entering the building.
5. Air Purifiers will be activated in every classroom and office occupied by children and staff.
6. KN95 masks will be provided for adults who may need to work temporarily outside to ensure safety of the children. Children over the age of 3 will be provided age appropriate mask when being escorted to parent/guardian’s vehicles for departure.

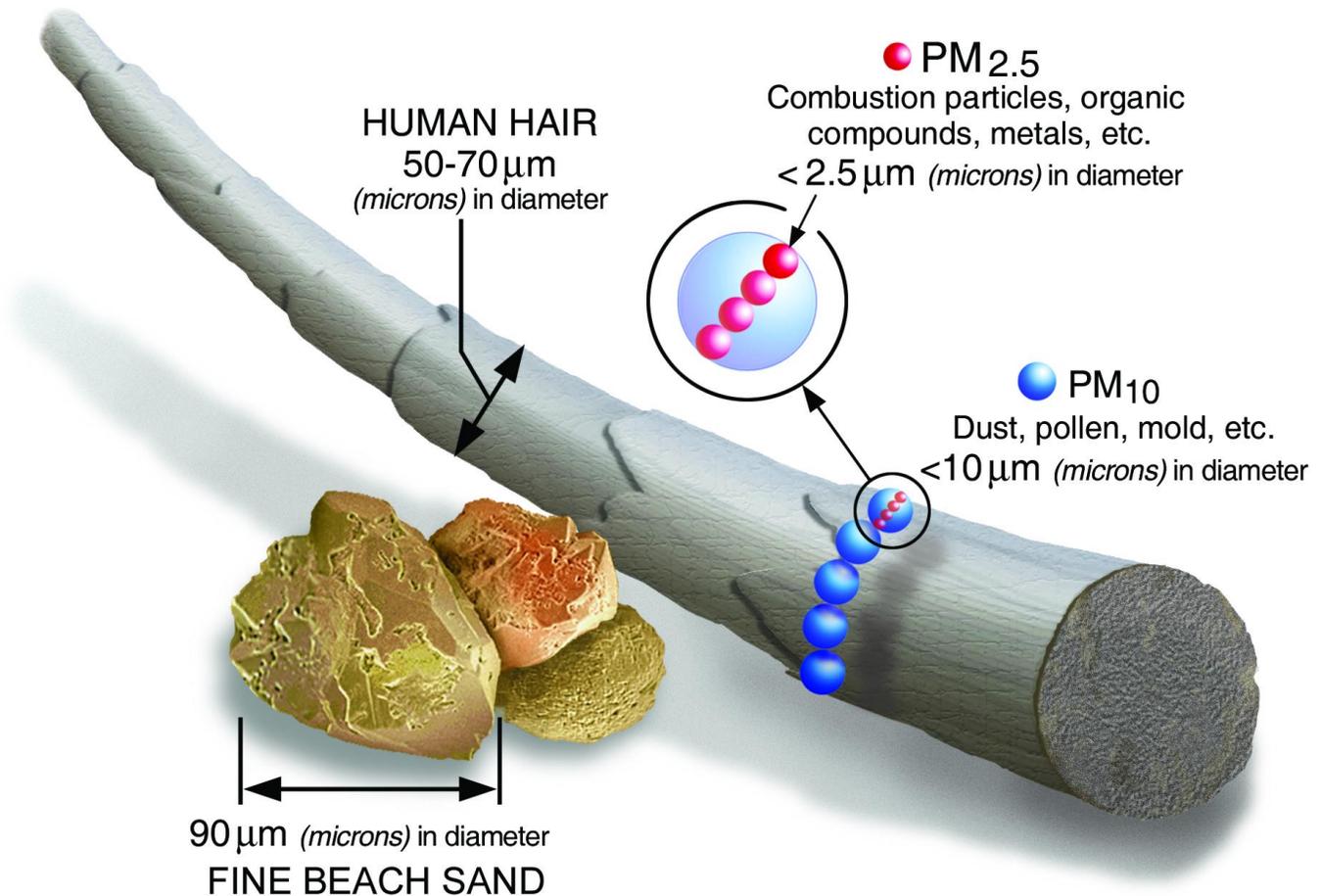
7. Tune into local radio stations for Weather and Air Conditions. Communication Tools: Bishop Paiute Tribal Radio 96.1 (760-784-9458); Big Pine Paiute Tribal Radio 97.7 (760-872-2238) KIBS 100.7(760-873-6324).
8. Transportation (School Bus) services may be activated based on visibility. Parents/Guardians will be notified if children will be transported home or if parents/guardians will need to pick up children. (Standard Plan: Big Pine enrolled children will be provided school bus transportation services and Bishop families may pick up their children. BIHS will provided transportation home if the family does not have access to a safe vehicle equipped with child car seat. Staff will remain on site until all children have been safely evacuated. Call for Road Conditions before making the decision to transport 1-800-427-7623.
9. BIHS will provide meals and snacks for children that may be missed due to early release.

C. Transportation: The most common natural disaster risk in Inyo County is wildfire and wildfire smoke. BIHS anticipates expected problems with transportation from severe smoke visibility. If transportation warnings happen rapidly and result in an inability to transport children safely home, teaching staff should be prepared to provide “SHELTER-IN-PLACE” until the air quality has improved enough to allow for safe transport of children.

1. Keep tuned in to local radio stations to monitor weather/emergency conditions: Communication Tools: Bishop Paiute Tribal Radio 96.1 (760-784-9458); Big Pine Paiute Tribal Radio 97.7 (760-872-2238) KIBS 100.7(760-873-6324). Begin informing families via radio, email, text, phone, and or child plus of the decision to close school.
2. Designated staff will inventory shelter supplies to make it through the night (food, water, blankets, working carbon monoxide detectors and air purifiers).
3. If not, Director or designated staff in charge should immediately communicate with Tribal Administrative Managers to arrange supplies to be delivered to BIHS or arrange for evacuation of children and staff.
4. Designated BIHS staff will remain with the children until every child is safe with their parent/guardian.

Definitions:

- **PM₁₀** : inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller; and
- **PM_{2.5}** : fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.
- How small is 2.5 micrometers? Think about a single hair from your head. The average human hair is about 70 micrometers in diameter – making it 30 times larger than the largest fine particle.



Additional resources located on page 4 and 5.

Visibility in Miles	PM _{2.5} or PM ₁₀ µg/m ³ , 1 to 3hr avg.	Health Category (AQI)	Cautionary Statements
10+	0-38	Good (0-50)	None
5-10	39-88	Moderate (51-100)	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
3-5	89-138	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150)	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
1.5-3	139-350	Unhealthy (151-200)	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
1-1.5	351-526	Very Unhealthy (201-300)	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
1 or less	526+	Hazardous (≥300)	Everyone should avoid all physical activity outdoors; people with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should remain indoors and keep activity levels low.

Recommendations for Outdoor Physical Activity during Smoky Conditions

This guide is intended to help you make decisions on outdoor activities when it's smoky outside.

Group information is listed below.

Length of Outdoor Physical Activity	Good for Groups (1 – 3)	Moderate for Group 1 Individuals	Unhealthy for Group 1 & 2 Individuals	Unhealthy for Group 1 - 3 Individuals	Very Unhealthy for Group 1 - 3 Individuals	Hazardous for Group 1 – 3 Individuals
	Visibility > 10 miles	Visibility 5 - 10 miles	Visibility 3 – 5 miles	Visibility 1.5 – 3 miles	Visibility 1 – 1.5 miles	Visibility < 1 mile
30 Minutes	No Restrictions	Group 1 Individuals should monitor or reduce physical activity.	Groups 1 & 2 should limit time spent outdoors or reduce physical activity.	Groups 1 & 2 should avoid the outdoors and Group 3 should reduce physical activity.		
1 Hour	No Restrictions	Group 1 Individuals should monitor or reduce physical activity.	Groups 1 & 2 should considerably limit time spent outdoors and reduce physical activity.	All Groups should avoid the outdoors and physical activity.	All Groups should avoid the outdoors and physical activity.	All Groups should avoid the outdoors and physical activity.
2 Hours or More	No Restrictions	Group 1 Individuals should limit prolonged physical activity.	Groups 1 & 2 should avoid the outdoors and Group 3 should reduce physical activity.			

WHICH GROUP ARE YOU IN?		
Group 1 Individuals	Group 2 Individuals	Group 3 Individuals
This group includes those with respiratory or heart disease, angina, pulmonary disease, asthma, emphysema or any other disease that may be impacted by any level of smoke.	This group includes those with asthma, or recent respiratory infections, those who experience seasonal allergies, work outside, or in general are more sensitive to the acute effects of smoke.	This group includes those who are more resistant to the short term effects of smoke. Healthy people may also experience adverse effects of smoke depending on duration and exposure.

Graphic created by: Placer County APCD

Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District

