

Safety Awareness Hazardous Smoke

Background

While the ACT has been impacted by smoke from nearby fires in NSW, today has seen a significant increase in the levels in Civic, at the Acton campus.

ACT Government through their Health Advice for Smoky Air page currently rates Civic as “Hazardous High” and recommend that:

“Everyone should **avoid** all physical activity outdoors

Sensitive groups should temporarily relocate to a friend or relative living outside the affected area. If this is not possible, remain indoors and keep activity levels as low as possible

Anyone with a heart or lung condition should take their medication as prescribed by their doctor. People with asthma should follow their asthma action plan. Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice from their doctor. Anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing should seek medical attention

Anyone experiencing symptoms which may be due to smoke exposure should consider taking a break away from the smoky conditions”, possibly relocating to an air-conditioned environment.

Recommendations

Staff are encouraged to consider their own health needs in relation to this advice from ACT Government. Staff should follow the recommendations as listed above and managers and supervisors should support staff in taking appropriate steps to ensure their own health and safety which may include flexible working arrangements.

Reference

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/environmental-monitoring/monitoring-and-regulating-air-0>

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/environmental-monitoring/monitoring-and-regulating-air>

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-12/Outdoor%20Smoke%20%20Health%20Impacts%20Factsheet%20-%20Dec%202019%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

Take down: 3-6 months from issue date

Contact: whs@anu.edu.au for additional information

Intended Audience: All ANU

Authorised by: Work Environment Group

Workers are reminded to report all hazards and incidents to their supervisor and through [Figtree](#), the University's Workplace safety incident and hazard reporting tool.