

USF AQI Matrix

Fall 2025

Level of Health Concern	Current PM 2.5 AQI Value	Who is Affected?	Outdoor Workers	Classes	Campus Operations	Athletics / Outdoor Rec	Outdoor Events
Good	0-50	None Expected	No Action Anticipated	No Action Anticipated	No Action Anticipated	No Action Anticipated	No Action Anticipated
Moderate	51-100	People extremely sensitive to particulates	People extremely sensitive to particulates may require work accommodations.	No Action Anticipated	No Action Anticipated	No Action Anticipated	No Action Anticipated
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	Sensitive groups include people with heart or lung disease, older adults, pregnant women, and children	People in sensitive groups may require work accommodations.	No Action Anticipated	Outdoor windows and doors should remain open, unless room occupants are physically uncomfortable as a result of exposure. In that instance, outer windows and doors may be closed. Open interior doors leading to hallways to increase air flow, if possible.	Athletic staff/outdoor recreation staff should consult with individuals who fall into the sensitive groups about participation in practice, competition, and/or outdoor events	Consider moving on-campus outdoor event indoors
Unhealthy	151-200	Everyone	Limit outdoor work and prolonged or heavy exertion if possible. Reassign employees who work outdoors for more than 1 hour or provide N95 respirators for voluntary use. Employers shall take action to protect employees from PM 2.5	Move outdoor classes indoors.	Close all outer windows and doors. Open interior doors leading to hallways to increase air flow, if possible. Consider making N95 respirators and use/care guidance available for voluntary use.	Athletic training staff should closely monitor the health of all athletes in practice and competition. Modifications to athletic activities should be considered and implemented as necessary. Shorten/modify outdoor recreational activity to limit prolonged or heavy exertion.	Cancel or move on-campus outdoor events indoors. Consider cancellation of field trips. Monitor AQI levels at field trip location.
Very Unhealthy	201-300	Everyone	Suspend outdoor work. If outdoor work is absolutely necessary, provide N95 respirator for voluntary use.	Consult with Academic Provost or designee on Continuity of Instruction protocols which could include cancellation of in person classes, shift to online modality or preplanned remote instructional plans.	Close all outer windows and doors. Open interior doors leading to hallways to increase air flow, if possible. To the extent possible, curtail campus operations.	Outdoor Athletic activities should be moved indoors or delayed, postponed, or relocated. Cancel or move indoors outdoor recreational activities.	Cancel or move on-campus outdoor events indoors. Field Trips should be cancelled
Hazardous	301-500	Everyone	All individuals should stay indoors. Keep activity levels low and indoors.	Consult with Academic Provost or designee on Continuity of Instruction protocols which could include cancellation of in person classes, shift to online modality or preplanned remote instructional plans.	Limited access to campus buildings. To the extent possible, curtail outdoor campus operations. People should avoid outdoor exposure	Cancel all outdoor athletic and recreational activities	Cancel all on-campus outdoor events. Field Trips should be cancelled
Extremely Hazardous	501+	Everyone	Essential personnel must wear appropriate respirators. Postpone non-essential work.	Classes cancelled	Essential personnel must wear appropriate respirators. Postpone non-essential work. Non-essential personnel may return home. Restricted access to campus buildings.	Cancel all outdoor athletic and recreational activities	Cancel all outdoor events and field trips

Matrix Guideline Notes

This matrix is designed for use when wildfire smoke conditions result in worsening and unhealthy air quality for San Francisco and areas surrounding satellite campuses.

AQI levels at, or exceeding 200 for a period of 24 hours or more will trigger the activation of the EOC. The EOC in discussion with University leadership will determine the decision regarding campus operations and activities and inform the community.

The matrix is intended to provide guidelines to the community to ensure their safety during times of poor air quality.

The matrix is subject to change based on the totality of environmental or operational circumstances presented or projected.

The matrix is not a stand alone document. It should be used in conjunction with university emergency operation plans, department action plans and operational procedures as well as local, state and federal guidelines and information.

Satellite campuses must also take into consideration and follow any local government or organizational protocols which may supersede this matrix.

The matrix incorporates actions required by Cal/OSHA Section 5141.1. For additional information/compliance contact Environmental Health and Safety.

Contract employees working at USF should follow the guidance from their employers.

University employees should seek guidance from their supervisors regarding their work status at the different AQI levels.

Actions for Athletic activities were based on the West Coast Conference (WCC) guidelines which uses the Air Quality Index (AQI) to guide decisions about outdoor athletic activities.

At all times, community members must take into consideration their health condition and take necessary precautions that may not be listed in the matrix.

Continuity of Instruction - Cancellation of classes is no longer the default when face to face instruction is disrupted. Continuity instruction plans can include online modality or a pre-planned remote instruction plan. See Continuity of Instruction Policy for more information.