

# ASHRAE Guideline 44-2024

## *Protecting Building Occupants from Smoke During Wildfire and Prescribed Burn Events*

With wildfires on the increase in the U.S., so is the health concern for breathing in fine particulate matter known as PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Since smoke events can last for days or weeks, inhalation of smoke can put people at risk for respiratory and cardiovascular effects, especially those sensitive populations and individuals with preexisting conditions like asthma and heart disease.

ASHRAE<sup>i</sup> Guideline 44, “*Protecting Building Occupants from Smoke During Wildfire and Prescribed Burn Events*” is the first of its kind to provide building owners and managers with recommendations on how to prepare for and respond to smoke events. The standard is available for purchase online in PDF and/or printed versions at:



Image courtesy of the U.S. EPA

- ASHRAE Guideline 44: [https://store accuristech.com/ashrae/standards/guideline-44-2024-protecting-building-occupants-from-smoke-during-wildfire-and-prescribed-burn-events?product\\_id=2923808](https://store accuristech.com/ashrae/standards/guideline-44-2024-protecting-building-occupants-from-smoke-during-wildfire-and-prescribed-burn-events?product_id=2923808).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (<https://www.epa.gov/>) also provides a number of related resources to improve indoor air quality and worker protection:

- Wildfires and Indoor Air Quality in Schools and Commercial Buildings: <https://www.epa.gov/emergencies-iaq/wildfires-and-indoor-air-quality-schools-and-commercial-buildings#wildfire>.

For information on the DoD SMCX’s services, please visit the SMCX-hosted website at: <https://smcscx.org/>.

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<sup>i</sup> Formerly known as the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, ASHRAE began doing business simply as “ASHRAE” instead of using its full legal name as part of a 2012 rebranding.