



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

Air Quality Support During Wildfire Season

During periods of poor air quality, FNHA encourages community members to seek out community clean air shelters as a primary protective measure. Environmental Health Officers can assist with guidance on establishing community spaces, and provincial and federal funding may be available to support these efforts.

FNHA, in partnership with community health centres, may be able to support individuals with high risk vulnerabilities through distribution of individual air purifiers or filters.

Public health evidence tells us that certain people are at more at-risk from wildfire smoke including:

- asthma
- heart disease or diabetes
- respiratory issues (COPD)
- babies or infants
- elderly
- pregnancy

Priority will be given to individuals who:

- have limited transportation / mobility **and** are unable to access a community clean air shelter
- live in a home without a ventilation system that can recirculate air **and** are identified as having increased vulnerability

Community Clean Air Shelters Please reach out to your local FNHA Environmental Health Officer (EHO) about guidance for clean air shelters or refer to the [factsheet](#).

Replacement HEPA Filters If you received or purchased HEPA filters previously, ensure they remain in good condition or replace the filters as needed. Other replacement filters may be provided by FNHA aligned with guidelines as above.

DIY Air Purifiers A home-made Do-It-Yourself (DIY) air cleaner with box fans and furnace filters can help improve air quality. [New research](#) has been released showing effectiveness of DIY air purifiers and FNHA can offer support with materials for community hosted workshops.

Contact your Regional HEM team for more information.

Regional Health Emergency Management Contacts:

Vancouver Coastal: VC.HEM@FNHA.ca

Vancouver Island: VI.HEM@FNHA.ca

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Visit [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) for more information on air purifiers and wildfire smoke protection.

Visit [FNHA's Wildfire Supports](#) webpage for more information.