



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

Safety, Oversight and Quality

PO Box 14530, Salem, OR 97309

3406 Cherry Ave NE, Salem, OR 97303

Phone: (503) 373-2227

Fax (503) 378-8966

NF-20-120 – Provider Alert

Date: September 10, 2020

To: All Long-Term Care Facilities

From: Safety, Oversight and Quality
DHS Aging and People with Disabilities Program

RE: Wildfires Across the State

Oregon is experiencing an unprecedented number of wildfires across the state. A number of providers are facing dangerous air quality from lingering smoke as well as facility evacuations due to fire danger.

Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) and the Safety, Oversight, and Quality Unit (SOQ) are here to provide support during this stressful time. These are some helpful resources available to track and respond to Oregon wildfires.

- [Oregon Smoke Blog](#): Provides additional information on current wildfires in Oregon, including links to various agency websites. During periods of high wildfire activity, this blog can be a source of information on wildfire status, air quality conditions, smoke forecasts, school and activity closures, burn bans, location of clean air shelters, and travel restrictions due to visibility.
- [Northwest Interagency Coordination Center's fire map](#): Information on fires across the Northwest. Click on fire icons for detailed information about each fire.
- [Oregon Health Authority: Wildfire Smoke and Your Health – Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- [Air Quality Index Map](#): This page shows the location of DEQ air quality monitoring stations throughout Oregon.
- Check [Tripcheck](#) before making travel or evacuation plans. This site is run by the Oregon Department of Transportation and will be updated frequently.

It is critical to remain prepared and alert to fires in your area as older adults and people with disabilities are more at risk of health complications due to harmful air quality as well as the stress of emergency evacuations. Please continue to monitor the situation in your area closely and contact us if you need additional support. Additionally, if you are able to assist in caring for evacuated residents please communicate your availability to your local licensing office or policy team.

We understand that moves need to happen very quickly and recognize that there will be times when decisions need to be made before all the typical processes have been put in place. We hope that if you are not in a fire zone that you will agree to take residents from facilities that are required to evacuate. Once things settle down, APD will be looking at the situation from a statewide perspective and will distribute guidance on what services, if any, may be billed to Medicaid.

You can contact your local licensing agency, or the AFH team with any concerns, or questions about resources available to you. Thank you for your continued service and cooperation during stressful times such as these.

As always, please email APD.AFHTeam@dhsosha.state.or.us with any questions.

If you have any questions, please contact your licensing team:

CBC.team@dhsosha.state.or.us
Nf.licensing@dhsosha.state.or.us

For general information about the DHS Office of Safety, Oversight and Quality, visit the DHS Web site at www.oregon.gov/DHS/.