

# Safety Huddle

## CODE GREY - Air Exclusion (EMER-10) Refresher

**What are the different types of Code Grey – Air Exclusion?**

**Precautionary:** Staff will be notified to standby for instructions.

**Stage 1 - Partial Exclusion:** Incident is contained/minor in nature and anticipated that it can be handled by a partial response in a short time with limited impact to hospital operations.

**Stage 2 - Full Exclusion:** Incident will have broader/longer impacts and most hospital operations will shut down.



**What is Code Grey – Air Exclusion?** Used after determining that the outside air is a danger to the people within the building, such as a large smoky fire.

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*For internal release or generation of irritating substances see **Code Brown**.*

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**Why is Code Grey – Air Exclusion emergency planning important?** According to [Natural Resources Canada](#), the 2023 wildfire season was the most destructive ever recorded, nearly doubling the previous burned area record. As a result, wildfire smoke plumes triggered special air quality advisory notices for the Thunder Bay area. With this year ramping up to be another active season, we at TBRHSC want to always be ready to respond should a similar or more intense situation occur.

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*DYK Wildfire Season is every April to October?*

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## Wildfires & Prolonged Air Quality Issues

Environment Canada has already issued special air quality statements this fire season for various regions in Ontario, noting that smoke plumes from active forest fires put particles and gases into the air that can be harmful to human health.



According to the Hospital's [Code Grey – Air Exclusion](#) policy the Hospital will use **Appendix 2: Forest Fire/Prolonged Air Quality Issues Response Guidelines** to inform response actions.

### General Response Actions

- Regularly monitor the Air Quality Index and evaluate wind direction.
- Assess the need to reduce or modify entrances into the Hospital.
- Assess the ability to increase recirculated air within the Hospital.
- Assess the need to recommend staff and patients wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

### Additional Resources

- Current forest fire danger, forest fire activity, and fire restrictions across Ontario: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/forest-fires>
- Thunder Bay - Air Quality Health Index: [https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/onaq-042\\_e.html](https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/onaq-042_e.html) for the Smoke
- Smoke forecast map: <https://firesmoke.ca/forecasts/current/>

### **Reminders:**

- If you suspect there's an external toxic airborne substance always remove yourself from harms way and report the situation to your Supervisor.
- During a Code Grey – Confirmed event, access to and from the Hospital will be restricted to the Main Entrance (revolving door) and Emergency Department.