

Safely Huddle

Code Grey - Air Exclusion (EMER-10)

What is Code Grey – Air Exclusion? If an external irritating toxic airborne substance will have immediate broad impacts to safe Hospital operations, a full air exclusion will be activated with approval from the Senior Leader (SL) on Call. If the situation is not imminent or is minor in nature (e.g., prolonged air quality issues due to wildfire smoke in the vicinity, roof work, etc.) Maintenance will adhere to departmental SOPs related to the maintenance of internal air quality and advise the SL on Call.

Wildfires & Prolonged Air Quality Issues

Environment Canada regularly issues special air quality statements during wildfire season for various regions in Ontario, noting that smoke plumes from active wildfires put particles and gases into the air that can be harmful to human health.

Did you know Wildfire Season is April 1 to October 31 each year?



General Code Grey – Air Exclusion 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 workers 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
- Smoke forecast map: <https://firesmoke.ca/forecasts/current/>