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NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT  
DEPARTMENT OF SUBWAYS  
OFFICE OF THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

# SAFETY ADVISORY

Advisory Number 23-38

June 7, 2023

## **AIR QUALITY HEALTH ADVISORY CANADIAN WILDFIRES**

On June 7, 2023, an Air Quality Health Advisory was issued for New York City and surrounding areas by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) and Department of Health (NYS DOH).

The pollutant of concern is elevated levels of **Fine Particulate Matter**, contributed mainly by the wildfires in Canada.

MTA Safety and Security has provided a link for additional information. ([\*Air Quality Index \(AQI\) Legend and Additional Information\*](#) (NYS DEC) or the EPA's assessment of the air quality where you live: <https://www.airnow.gov>).

Potential health impacts from exposure to elevated levels of fine particulate matter can worsen medical conditions like asthma or other respiratory conditions.

- Working outdoors for non-essential tasks should be avoided, where/when practical.
- Schedule tasks in indoor locations, where/when practical.
- If work outdoors is critical to operations, follow these guidelines.
  - Increase frequency of breaks and maintain hydration.
  - Rotate employees more frequently when performing strenuous physical tasks.
  - Utilize vehicles and/or facilities with air conditioning for relief breaks.
  - Supervision should closely monitor their workforce for any developing medical conditions.
  - Supervision should maintain regular safety check-ins with employees in the field.
- Masks (e.g., N95 or KN95) must be provided to employees upon request.

This advisory, all specified rules, and division-pertinent Safety Documents and Alerts must be discussed during tool-box/daily safety talks with all hourly employees.



Bhavesh Gandhi, Chief Safety Officer