

OSHE ALERT

HEALTH ADVISORY FOR WORKPLACES DURING HAZE

What is Haze?

- Haze is a phenomenon caused by the large number of small particles that cannot be seen by the naked eye and float in the air.
- These particles may come from the nature or side effects of human activity.
- The haze is a state of a poor quality characterized by opalescent appearance of the atmosphere and reduces visibility
- Eye irritation, watery eyes, conjunctivitis
- Running nose, stuffy nose, sneezing
- Headache, dizziness, fatigue & stress
- ✓ Decreased lung function



- ✓ Faster rate of promoting development of vascular disease
- ✓ Increase of risk of death by cardiovascular disease
- ✓ May contributed to development of diabetes
- ✓ Spontaneous abortion, underweight infants, birth defects and infant defect

General Measure at Workplace Minimize outdoor activities

Close all windows, doors and any opening that may allow haze to enter the workplace

Ensure maintenance if the air conditioner with regular cleaning and servicing

Use an air purifier to keep particulate levels low

Provide health education regarding haze to the employees

Provide respirators for employees who have to works outdoors

Conduct fit Testing

Reassignment of job tasks

General Measures for the Workers Inform the management if you are suffering from any heart or respiratory diseases

Take your medication regularly if suffering from an existing disease, especially respiratory diseases

Drink more water and increase the intake of fresh fruits and vegetables

Cut down on alcohol and coffee

Avoid smoking

Wear a respirator when you go outside

Good

Moderate

Unhealthy

Very Unhealthy

301-400

Hazardous

Hazardous

All government and private

 Prepare for any future possibility of air

pollution

- Identify outdoor activities that need to be minimized
- Health
 Education to
 the employees
- Ensure stock of N95 masks
 Perform fit
- Perform fit testing for employees who work outdoors
- Initiate use of N95 respirators by employees
- working outdoors# • Reassign susceptible employees with difficulties
- working outdoors to indoor jobs*
- Minimize strenuous outdoor tasks
- Reassign all susceptible employees to indoor jobs*
- Avoid strenuous outdoor tasks
- Temporarily stop earthworks and earth movements tasks
- Assess visibility for work processes
- Ensure use of headlights while driving
- Ensure all persons working outdoor are using N95 respirators
- Avoid outdoor work
- sector offices and workplaces to be closed pending declaration of Disaster Emergency by the National Committee on Disaster Management except essential services

Reference: Ministry of Health, Malaysia

^{*}Workers with chronic lung and/or heart diseases should avoid using N95 respirators

^{*}Workers with chronic lung and/or heart diseases, workers with acute respiratory illness