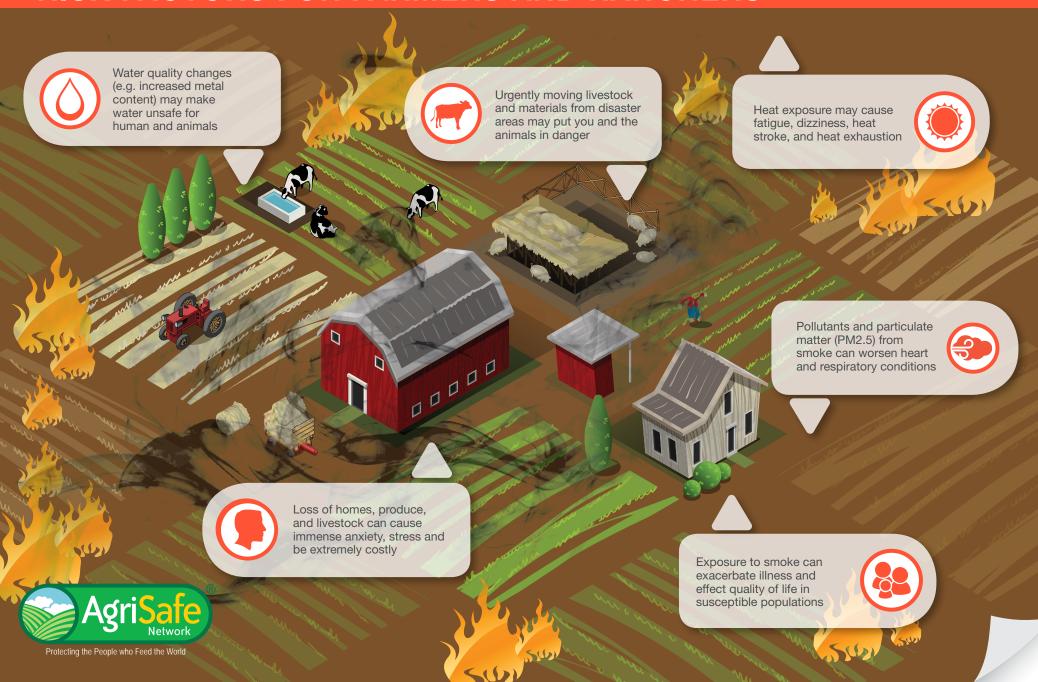
WILDFIRE HEALTH THREATS

RISK FACTORS FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS



RESPIRATORY **DISTRESS**

During wildfires air quality becomes drastically worsened due to smoke from burning materials and chemicals. Particulate matter also known as PM2.5 associated with air pollution and wildfires can be deposited deep into the respiratory tract inhibiting lung and cardiovascular function.



loss of consciousness,

nausea and vomiting,

muscle cramps, and

dizziness.

Disaster recovery is

HEAT

STRESS ILLNESSES

After a natural disaster. you're dealing with the extra stress of current conditions, along with the daily stress of farm and ranch operations. Natural disasters such as wildfires create a tremendous amount of additional stress and anxiety. You may develop major depression, generalized anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder.

HUMAN & ANIMAL

Livestock sensing wildfire danger can become irritated, aggressive and panic. Relocating livestock during stressful times should be carefully planned to limit injury by fleeing animals. Deceased livestock can host and spread zoonotic disease so follow quidelines to prevent the spread of communicable disease.

WATER QUALITY

Water quality can be affected due to materials and chemicals being burned. Flame retardants, pesticides, and organic material can make ground water not suitable for human or animal use.

AT RISK INDIVIDUALS

Wildfire smoke affecting Air Quality can be especially dangerous to certain populations: Older adults are more susceptible to lung and heart disease. Children with developing respiratory systems can become ill. Pregnant women exposed to smoke can result in adverse birth effects.







PREVENTION TIPS

- Use only NIOSH approved N95 (or better) respirators that have been properly fitted
- · Keep children and seniors inside if possible as they are greater affected by air pollution
- Take frequent rest/ water breaks
- · Wear light colored clothing
- Use the buddy system to identify heat related symptoms
- Rest in an air conditioned area and hvdrate
- · Understand signs and symptoms

- Be pro-active, recognize potential signs of stress, anxiety, or depression
- Know your local resources where you can go for help
- Adequate sleep (7-8 hours) is critical to the recovery process
- · Decide if animals can be sheltered or need relocation
- Plan relocation ahead of time to avoid stress and confusion
- · Tag and free livestock as a last resort
- · Follow state quidance on carcass removal

- Sample & test water
- · Conduct well and pump inspection
- · Perform emergency disinfection of wells
- · Follow health department drinking and water use advisories
- Use only NIOSH approved N95 (or better) respirators that have been properly fitted
- · Keep children and seniors inside if possible as they are greater affected by air pollution
- · Follow healthcare provider directions

FACT SHEETS

Wildfire Smoke Particulate Matter

Heat Illness

Mental Health

Wildfires & Livestock **Zoonotic Disease**

Wildfire & Water Quality

CDC Wildfires Resource

Research Highlight: Health Risks to Farmers

*This list of risk factors is not exhaustive. For example, other risks may include electric shock, breathing, falls and structural hazards.

