

MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS TO WILDFIRE SMOKE



DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN AGED 0-5 YEARS

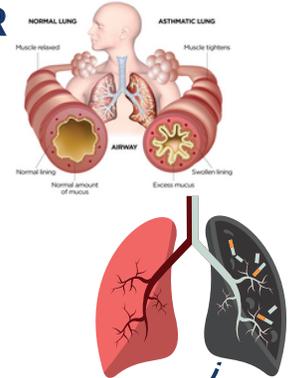
Wildfire is more dangerous to children because their lungs are still developing, they breathe more quickly and spend more time outdoors.

In addition, children may have a chronic disease that has not been identified yet.



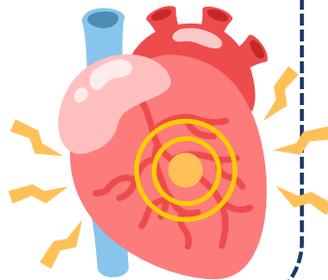
INDIVIDUALS WITH ASTHMA AND OTHER LUNG CONDITIONS

Wildfire smoke increases asthma symptoms like difficulty breathing, wheezing, and coughing. This may cause more reliance on rescue inhalers and possible emergency room visits.



INDIVIDUALS WITH HEART CONDITIONS

Wildfire smoke exposure is linked to chest pain, heart palpitations and emergency room visits.



OLDER ADULTS

Wildfire smoke exposure is a concern for older adults because of an increased prevalence of pre-existing conditions and also because the body's natural defense mechanisms decline with age.



PREGNANT WOMEN

Wildfire smoke exposure has been linked to a higher rate of preterm birth and lower birthweight babies.



INDIVIDUALS WHO WORK OUTSIDE

Working outside during a smoke event can result in a range of health effects, dependent on the health of the worker. This may range from eye or respiratory irritation to triggering asthma symptoms or a heart attack.



For more information, visit [AirQuality.mt.gov](https://airquality.mt.gov)