

After a fire: using your personal protective equipment

Community information

People returning to properties affected by fire should wear protective equipment. This equipment should include masks, disposable coveralls, sturdy foot-ware and sturdy gloves.

The information sheet *After a fire: returning home safely*, details the health and safety considerations that you should know before re-entering your property. A garbage bag to dispose of used protective equipment should also be taken.

As the protective equipment is disposable and should not be re-used, several sets may be required for each person, depending on the time spent at the property.

Masks, coveralls and gloves should be removed and thrown away:

- **whenever you break from work**
- **when you leave your property**
- **before entering vehicles.**

Wearing sturdy footwear that can be easily cleaned or washed down when leaving your property is recommended.

How to use the protective equipment:

Follow the instructions on the last page for guidance on fitting the mask – be aware that beards and moustaches prevent men from getting a good air tight seal with masks.

Coveralls should be worn over your clothing.

To remove and dispose of the protective equipment:

- Disposable coveralls should be peeled off inside out and placed in the bag.
- Gloves should be removed and placed in the bag.
- Thoroughly wash down footwear if not being thrown away.
- Remove the face mask last, placing it in the bag.
- Seal the bag tightly by tying a knot.
- Dispose of the bag at any refuse collection point.



Further information

Call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) at any time.

Contact 13 QGOV (13 74 68) for your nearest Public Health Unit.

Your doctor

If you or anyone in your household is experiencing any health effects from the smoky conditions seek medical advice from your doctor.

Queensland Health acknowledges the State of Victoria, Health and Human Services, for permission to use their fact sheet content.

How to put on and fit check a P2 mask



1 Separate the edges of the mask to fully open it



2 Bend the nose wire to form a gentle curve. The nose wire represents the top of the mask



3 Hold the mask upside down to expose the two straps



4 Using your index fingers and thumbs, separate the two straps



5 While holding the straps, cup the mask under your chin



6 Pull the straps up and over your head



7 Place and position the lower strap at the base of your neck (under your ears)



8 Place the upper strap on the crown of your head so that it runs just above the top of your ears



9 Gently press the nose wire down across the bridge of your nose until it fits snugly



10 Continue to adjust the mask and edges until you feel you have achieved a good and comfortable fit

FIT CHECK

Gently inhale. When you breathe in the mask should draw in slightly toward the face and collapse



A 'fit check' must be performed each time a P2 mask is worn



Gently exhale. The mask should fill up with air. It is important at this stage that there is no air leakage around edges of mask

Follow these directions each time the mask is worn. The masks will not provide the intended level of protection unless worn correctly, so it is important that you achieve a good fit as detailed above. Men who are clean shaven will achieve the best facial seal. The brand of P2 masks may vary slightly, so always follow the manufacturer's instructions and warnings.