



Proclamation

WHEREAS, smoke from wildfires has become a recurring seasonal air quality hazard in the western United States and British Columbia; and in the Puget Sound region in 2018, wildfire smoke led to twenty-four days of poor air quality, including nine days that were considered either unhealthy for sensitive groups or unhealthy for everyone; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has experienced over three hundred fires so far in 2019, with half of them occurring in Western Washington; and based on current drought and forest conditions, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources believes we may see a record number of wildfires in 2019; and

WHEREAS, smoke from wildfires can be hazardous to the health of Puget Sound residents, especially people with heart disease or breathing problems, pregnant women, people over the age of sixty-five, and children; and

WHEREAS, annual preparations for wildfire smoke impacts can help Puget Sound residents mitigate the effect of wildfire smoke on their health and daily routines; and these steps include talking to their health care provider about their health risk, taking steps to keep their indoor air cleaner, sharing existing cleaner air spaces in their homes with neighbors, and limiting outdoor activity when air quality is poor; and

WHEREAS, Puget Sound businesses can also help mitigate the impact of wildfire smoke by setting clear procedures for communicating with employees, ensuring they have high-quality air filters on their HVAC systems to improve indoor air quality, and taking precautions to protect the health of outdoor workers; and

WHEREAS, all Puget Sound residents should frequently check the Puget Sound Clean Air agency website or Airnow.gov to confirm the air quality in their area, and use the activity guidelines provided by the Washington State Department of Health to ensure their safety during periods of poor air quality; and

WHEREAS, by ensuring our region is Smoke Ready, we can protect the health and safety of all of our residents.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Geoffrey Thomas, do hereby recognize June 19, 2019 as

SMOKE READY COMMUNITIES DAY

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor