**Climate Readiness Training Module Outline**

**Module Name: Wildfires**

**Total run time:**

Virtual Session: 60 minutes

**Module Objectives:**

1. Understand the basics of the impacts of wildfire smoke on health/safety in Cambridge, including why it is increasing in frequency (in relation to climate change)
2. Understand who is most vulnerable/why, as well as impacts on infrastructure, environment, public health
3. Ability to communicate the issue of wildfire smoke within the larger framework of climate change(?), climate justice
4. Ability to prepare self, household, and connect community members with immediate resources (e.g., AQI, mask distribution), and share what has been done in response to the smoke in areas where wildfires are more common

**In-Person Session Agenda:**

| **Section** | **Details** | **Facilitator/ Materials** | **Timing** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Welcome** | Provide a formal welcome and review the goals of the day.  Ask C3 members to share:   * Name * How long they’ve been with C3 * Icebreaker: something related to wildfire? Or lighthearted like what people did for the 4th of July? Favorite summer activity?   Briefly describe the agenda for the day. Pause for questions/clarifications. | Facilitator leads | **5 mins** |
| **Wildfire Smoke podcast** | If many new people – listen again to The Daily episode on wildfires. **If similar group to 6/21 meeting, can summarize main points – from the transcript:**   * For this time of year, for May into June, we are dealing with something that is completely unprecedented * fires are getting more intense, more dramatic, in part because of the influence of climate change * World is becoming more fire prone because of climate change. Which is warming things, baking things, drying things out, and making them more like ready tinder. And one thing that means is that the character of the fires themselves are changing once they burn. They’re able to grow faster and larger. They burn at higher temperatures. * In part as a result of the intensity of these fires and the extra heat, you end up drawing a lot more of the burn material higher up into the atmosphere. It’s an effect of just how hot and how intense the fires are, which allows winds to carry it farther afield. * Things are not going to be as safe and stable when it comes to air quality as we’ve come to assume. That’s especially true in the West...But it’s even true in places that got used to thinking of themselves as living outside of this particular threat. Like Cambridge and Boston.   [The Daily: There’s No Escaping Wildfire Smoke](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/09/podcasts/the-daily/wildfire-smoke-new-york.html) June 9th, 2023  Start at 6:40; End at 11:20 | Facilitator | **5 mins (optional!)** |
| **Wildfires 101**  **(Lesson + Short Discussion)** | Link wildfires with climate change (hotter climate, longer drier seasons, more fire prone, more intense wildfires). A global issue (both fires and the pollution that spreads).   * California * Canada: Historic spikes in wildfires earlier in the season. Just May-June 14 times higher than previous decade (which was pretty high too), smoke detected in parts of Europe * Australia: across the Pacific to South America, across the Atlantic   Wildfire smoke is one of the main climate impacts on air quality ([EPA](https://www.epa.gov/air-quality/air-quality-and-climate))   * Like climate change, air pollution from wildfires goes beyond borders and the smoke is hard to predict moves depending on the weather. * Sometimes it’s invisible (the sky doesn’t turn orange), but levels of air pollution affect people differently.   + Orange skies recently --> From podcast: The wildfires grow faster, getting bigger, higher temperatures. Heat and intensity of fires impact what gets burnt and how high burnt materials go into the atmosphere, hence how far winds carry it.   What is AQI and how to monitor:   * Know what to do/not do. | Facilitator  Slides | **10 mins** |
| **Climate Justice**  **(Lesson + Short Discussion)** | Who is more vulnerable? Why? (Hint: similar to extreme heat)   * Anyone with Existing exposure, exacerbated by smoke   + People with pre-existing conditions/medications   + People who work outdoors, don’t have control to manage their exposure   + Elderly, children, pregnant women, people with disabilities   + Unhoused population   + Neighborhoods with higher levels of pollution (e.g., near a highway)   + Neighborhoods with less tree cover (trees mitigate air pollution)   \*Highlight that the last two typically are EJ communities (in MA: minority, income, language isolation) --> less ability to adapt  ***Discussion question:*** Are there any areas you can think about that might be more vulnerable in Cambridge? | Facilitator  Slides | **10 mins** |
| **Wildfires & Health** | EXISTING CDC, etc. MATERIAL FROM SAM & NANCY |  | **20 mins** |
| **What people have done** | Connect to global issue --> air pollution/smoke from wildfires are issues that have more commonly emerged in other areas. And now here.  These are some things that people have done:   * Buying home air filters * Makeshift air filter using box fans (e.g., [California](https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/protecting-yourself-wildfire-smoke)) like during Covid * N95 masks - Masking up according to the AQI * [Air Quality Flags in the neighborhood](https://www.airnow.gov/air-quality-flag-program/) | Facilitator  Slides | **5 mins** |
| **Debrief & Closing** | Vector born disease training on 7/19 and 7/20  Meeting Evaluation form  OR: +/Δ: What went well, what would you like facilitators to do differently in next session |  | **5 mins** |