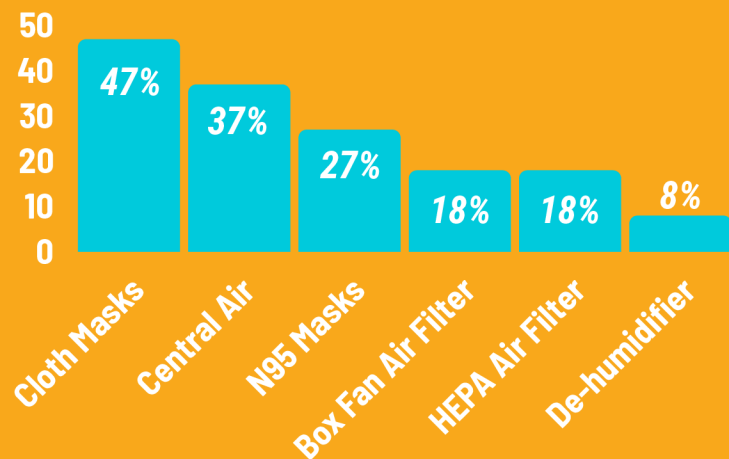


# Wildfire Impacts

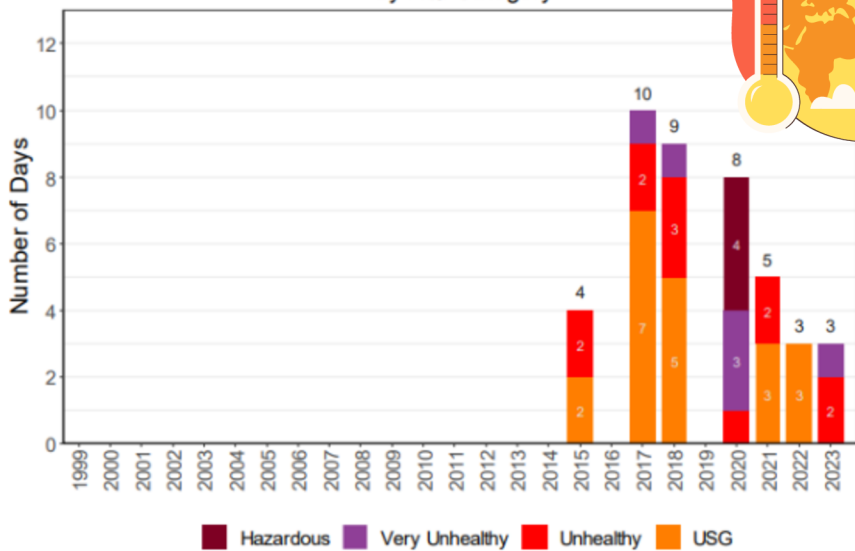
## Wildfires & Climate Change

According to the 2021 Community Health Assessment (CHA), 35.6% responded “Yes” to “Were you or your household affected by wildfire or wildfire smoke within the past year?” Cloth masks and central air were the primary protection resources for CTUIR community. The Air Quality Index (AQI) categories from wildfire smoke have been increasing starting around 2012, with more frequent days at “unhealthy” or worse levels, including the record-breaking events of September 2020. If these trends continue, Oregon expects to see an increasing number of days with an AQI  $\geq$ USG during summer months across the state.

### Means of Protection Against Smoke

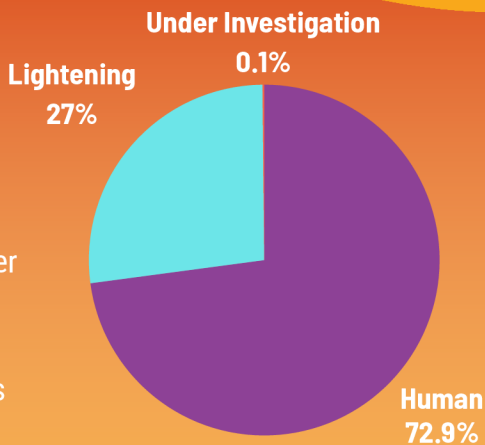


Pendleton Wildfire Smoke by AQI Category



## Oregon Department of Forestry Fire History 2000-2022 indicates causes of fires.

- Hotter, drier weather may increase the likelihood of bigger and more destructive wildfires.
- The total area burned, number of fires and size of the fires are all increasing across the western United States. As forest fires increase, so does exposure to wildfire smoke.



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

## WILDFIRE AIR QUALITY IMPACTS

01

From 1989 to 2012, La Grande had seven days with AQI values that were USG or worse, or 0.30 days per year.

02

From 2013 to 2023, La Grande had 35 with AQI values that were USG or worse, or 3.5 days per year. It was a 11.67 fold increase in days impacted per year between the two ten-year periods.

03

In all, there were 29 days with AQI values that were USG or worse from 2017 to 2023.

## LOCAL SOLUTIONS & RESOURCES

- N95 masks can be provided to the community when requested. Yellowhawk departments have N95 masks for handout, as well as the Senior Center.
- The Senior Center is a public location that is open throughout the day if heat/air quality are concerns.

**Yellowhawk Public Health 541.240.8697**

Smoke may worsen symptoms for people who have pre-existing health conditions and those who are particularly sensitive to air pollution. Sensitive groups include:

- Persons with asthma or other chronic respiratory disease
- Persons with cardiovascular disease
- Persons  $\geq$  65 years of age
- Infants and children
- Pregnant woman
- Smokers, especially those who have smoked for several years