Snapshot

Wildfire Smoke in the Salt Lake City Metro Area

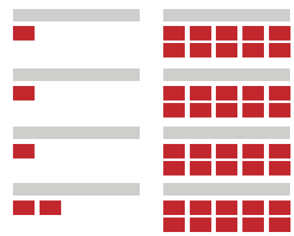
Wildfires have been increasing in frequency, duration, and intensity, measurably affecting communities. Heavy smoke is denser and more likely to be harmful or disruptive. Wildfire smoke can travel thousands of miles, potentially impacting industrial and commercial centers far from fires.

How is wildfire smoke changing?

A "person-day" (one person being under smoke for one day) describes the potential impact of smoke to a region. The annual average person-days of heavy smoke in the Salt Lake City metro **increased 785%** in 2017-2021, compared to 2011-2015.

The average person in the Salt Lake City metro area went from experiencing about 3 days per year of medium smoke overhead to an average of **10 days per year** in the second half of the decade.

Heavy smoke in the Salt Lake City metro area went from about 5 days every 4 years to about **10 days each year.**



Possible economic impact of wildfire smoke

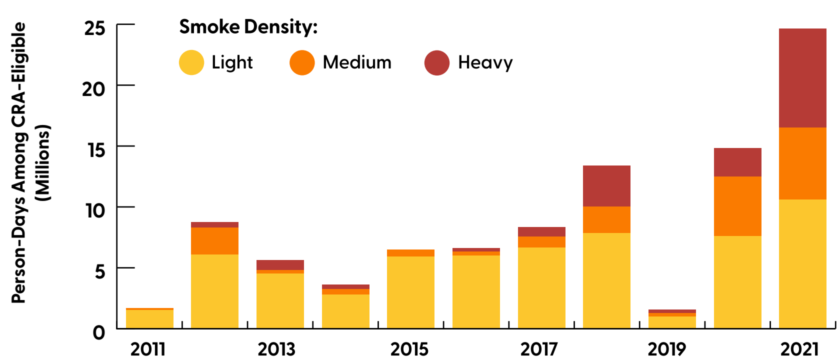
Wildfire smoke is more likely to disrupt and harm frontline workers. The Salt Lake City region, home to **134,000 frontline workers**, experienced more than **3.8 million frontline worker-days of heavy smoke in 2021.**

	Utilities, Transportation & Warehousing	Agriculture, Fishing & Mining	Construction	Manufacturing
% of the industry in frontline jobs	55%	46%	74%	54%
frontline workers as % of Salt Lake City workforce	6%	1%	7%	10%
industry's economic output (2020)	$4B	$1B	$6B	$10B

Prioritizing resilience through the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA)

Communities that experience dramatic increases in disruptive smoke – such as low- and moderate-income and underserved or distressed communities – may be eligible for existing financing programs through the CRA that could help build resilience to smoke-related damages.

26% of the Salt Lake City Metro population is CRA-eligible



Data in this snapshot comes from the SF Fed research brief *"Disruptions from Wildfire Smoke: Vulnerabilities in Local Economies and Disadvantaged Communities in the U.S."* and from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Learn more at https://sffed.us/wildfire-smoke.

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco