



# PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

**CR-101 (October 2017)  
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)**

Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

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DATE: October 20, 2020

TIME: 11:58 AM

WSR 20-21-093

**Agency:** Department of Labor and Industries (L&I)

**Subject of possible rule making:** Wildfire Smoke. Chapter 296-62 WAC, General occupational health standards.

**Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject:**

RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060

**Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:**

The agency recognizes the hazard of wildfire smoke exposure is increasing every year and is now potentially presenting important health risks to all outdoor workers including those in construction and agriculture. L&I has received a petition for rulemaking on this topic as well. California has adopted rules for workplace safety and health rules regarding wildfire smoke.

Wildfire smoke and cleanup presents hazards that employers and workers in affected regions must understand. Smoke from wildfires contains chemicals, gases and fine particles that can harm health. Health hazards continue even after fires have been extinguished and cleanup work begins. Proper protective equipment and training are essential for worker safety in wildfire regions.

Some of the issues that may be addressed are:

- Identification of harmful exposures;
- Communication;
- Training and instruction; and
- Control of harmful exposures.

**Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:** None.

**Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):**

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study

Other (describe) Parties interested in the formulation of these rules for proposal may contact the individual listed below. The public may also participate by commenting after amendments are proposed by providing written comments or giving oral testimony during the public hearing process.

**Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:**

Name: Cynthia Ireland, Administrative Regulations Analyst	(If necessary) Name:
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Other:

Additional comments: None

**Date:** October 20, 2020

**Name:** Joel Sacks

**Title:** Director

**Signature:**

