
Respiratory Protection Training and Fit Testing for Day Laborers and Domestic Workers Following the 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires

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Respiratory Hazards During and After Wildfires



COEH Image, Altadena 2025

Wildfire smoke is a complex mixture of water vapor and pollutants including:

- Gases- Carbon monoxide, etc.
- Organic compounds- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Particulate matter
- Others



Role of Day Laborers & Domestic Workers in Disaster Response



Adrian Florido / NPR, Altadena 2025



Day laborer Oscar Hernandez, right, cleans up vegetation debris south of the Eaton Fire burn area this week.
(Joel Angel Juarez / CalMatters)

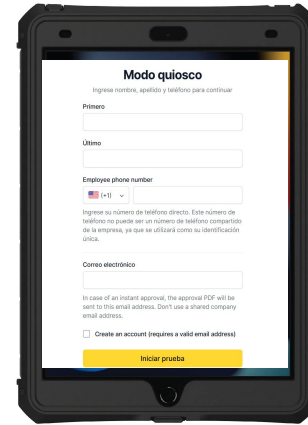
Respiratory Protection Awareness Training

- Emergency funds from the CA Dept of Public Health (CDPH)
- Collaborated with community-based organizations and worker center to reach workers in trusted spaces throughout LA County
- Developed bilingual respiratory protection awareness training curriculum and educational handouts



Respiratory Protection Fit Testing

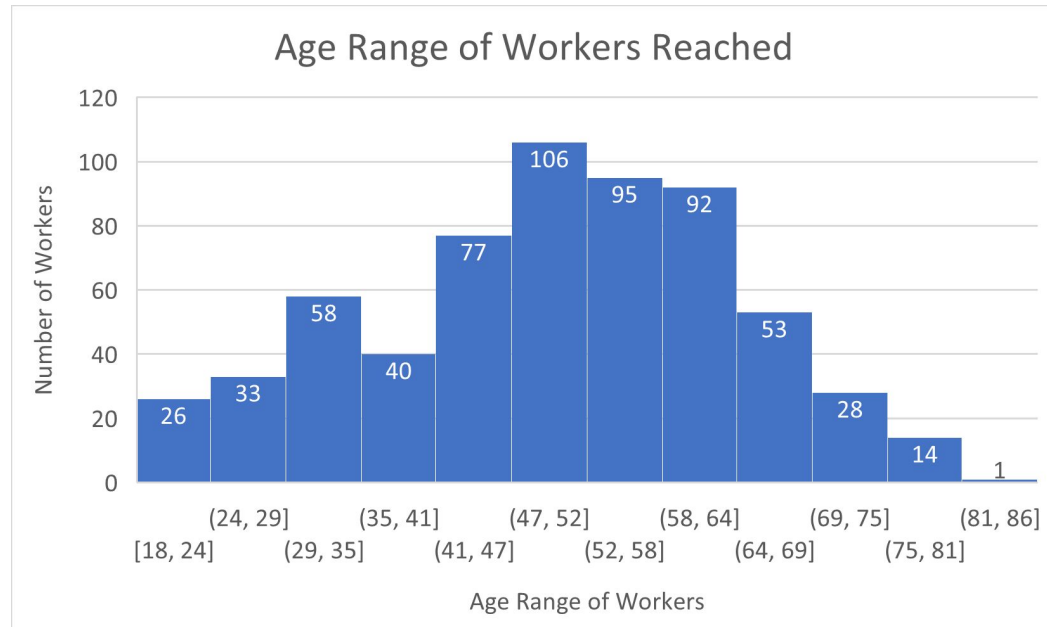
- Administered online medical evaluation questionnaire to assess whether workers could safely wear a respirator
- Provided qualitative fit testing to workers who were medically cleared to wear respirators
- Provided workers with half-face elastomeric respirators with P100 filters and multi-contaminant cartridges



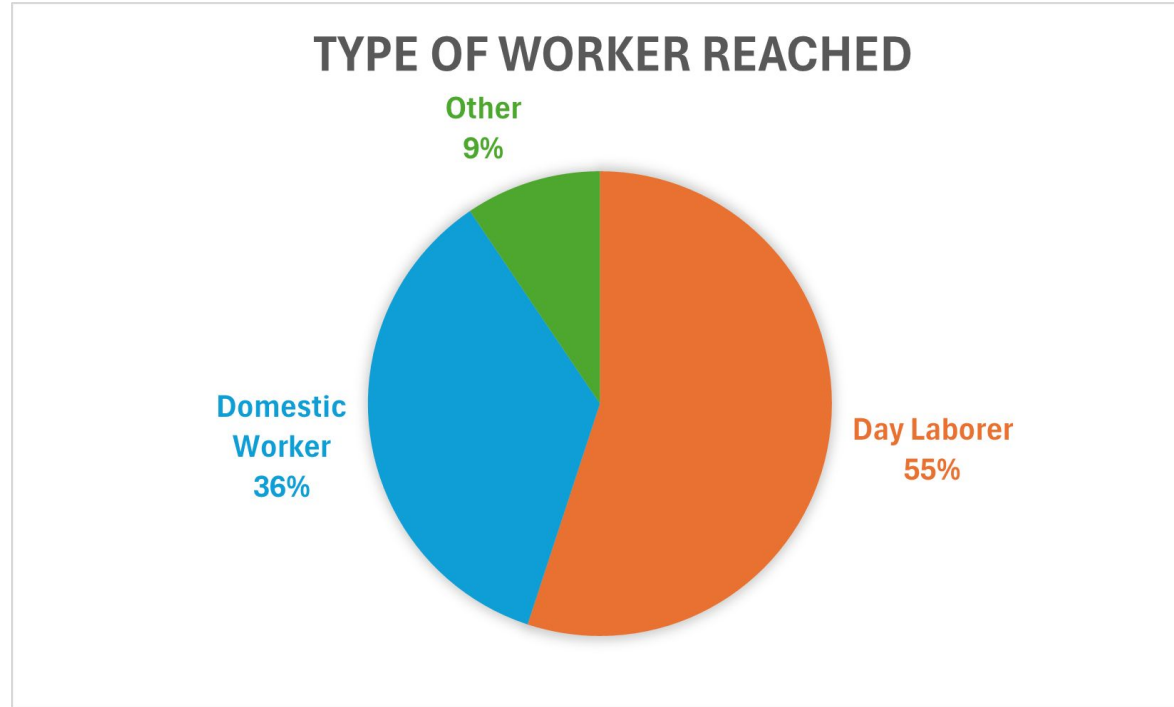
Results: Demographics of Workers Reached

From June 2025 to April 2026:

- Reached 634 workers throughout LA County



Results: Demographics of Workers Reached



Results: Number of Workers Trained & Fit Tested

From June 2025 to April 2026:

	Number of Workers
Completed respiratory awareness training	634
Completed respirator medical evaluation questionnaire	626
<i>Received pending medical review</i>	130
<i>Approved after occupational medicine physician review</i>	122
<i>Approved with restrictions</i>	8
<i>Not approved for respirator use</i>	8
Completed fit test and received respirator	545

Discussion

- Importance of rapid interventions to protect vulnerable populations from respiratory hazards during and after climate-related disasters
- Expanding access to lung screening and broader low/no cost respiratory health services for workers in precarious employment arrangements



Thank you

To all of the workers and staff from the following organizations:

- Instituto de Educación Popular del Sur de California (IDEPSCA)
- National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)
- Pomona Economic Opportunity Center (PEOC)
- Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)
- Esperanza Community Housing Corporation
- Koreatown Youth and Community Center (KYCC)
- East Los Angeles Women's Center (ELAWC)
- International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 56



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