UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCES IN RESPIRATORS, MASKS, & FACE COVERINGS
With Wildfire Smoke Present

PRESENTED BY: Mendocino County Air Quality Management District
www.mendoair.org  707-463-4354

N95 & Surgical Respirators ARE TIGHT FITTING WITH MINIMAL LEAKAGE

✧ INTENDED USER: ESSENTIAL & HEALTHCARE WORKERS
  ➞ Protects wearer from airborne particles & liquid contaminating the face
  ➞ Protects others from wearer’s respiratory droplets (no valve on mask)
  ➞ Protects wearer from smoke
    (reuse in smoky conditions may reduce efficiency & impede breathing)

Surgical Masks ARE LOOSE FITTING AND HAVE EXTENSIVE LEAKAGE

✧ INTENDED USER: HEALTHCARE WORKERS & PATIENTS
  ➞ Protects wearer by blocking large particles that may contain germs
  ➞ Protects others from wearer’s respiratory droplets

Comfort Masks ARE LOOSE FITTING AND HAVE EXTENSIVE LEAKAGE

✧ INTENDED USER: GENERAL PUBLIC
  ➞ Protects wearer by offering relief from particles like dust or pollen
  ➞ Protects others from wearer’s respiratory droplets

Cloth Facial Coverings ARE LOOSE FITTING AND HAVE EXTENSIVE LEAKAGE

✧ INTENDED USER: GENERAL PUBLIC
  ➞ Protects wearer by blocking large particles that may contain germs
  ➞ Protects others from wearer’s respiratory droplets
  ➞ May be laundered & reused

‘CLEAN AIR ROOMS’: AN EFFECTIVE SMOKE SOLUTION

Consider creating a ‘clean air room’ in your residence to help reduce exposure to dangerous or unhealthy wildfire smoke by following these steps:

1. Choose a room
2. Prevent smoke from entering the room
3. Stay cool & filter the air
4. Avoid activities that create smoke or other particles indoors
5. Spend as much time as possible in the ‘clean room’