



MEMO

TO: All Program Staff, Students, Visitors, and Community Stakeholders
CC: Jaimie Crane, Education Director; Shaundeen Smith, Tribal Navigator; Andria Scott, Administrative Assistant
FROM: Lynette Minthorn, Higher Education Program Manager 
DATE: July 27, 2026
SUBJECT: Standing Notice—Higher Education Program Operations During CTUIR Emergency Declaration.

In response to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) emergency declaration, the Higher Education Program is enacting the following temporary operational procedures. These measures will remain in effect until the Board of Trustees lifts the state of emergency.

Higher Education Program Operations

Effective Immediately:

- Department leadership will monitor information provided by CTUIR Emergency Management, Tribal Leadership, and public health officials.
- Program operations may be modified daily based on wildfire conditions affecting air quality, evacuation notices, utility interruption, or other safety concerns.
- All staff, students, families, visitors, and community stakeholders associated with CTUIR Higher Education programming should be prepared for changes in operating status with limited notice.
- If closure is necessary, staff, students, and families will be notified as soon as possible.
- Depending on conditions, programs may:
 - operate on normal schedules;
 - operates on modified schedules;
 - cancel scheduled activities or events;
 - temporarily close facilities if conditions are determined unsafe and/or unhealthy—i.e., $AQI > 200$

Communication

We will provide additional operational updates as new information becomes available or promptly after any situation arises. In the meantime, please stay alert for emergency status notifications and follow any applicable evacuation orders. Operational updates will be communicated through one or more of the following channels:

- Official CTUIR social media announcements; AND
- Email, text message, or phone call, as necessary.

Services to Families & Students

Whenever possible, program staff will continue providing in-person education services and wraparound support. Community members needing emergency fire-related assistance are encouraged to contact the CTUIR Department of Children & Family Services at 541-276-3165.

PREPARING YOUR EMERGENCY GO-BAG



Prepare a Emergency Plan ☒

First Aid Kit ☒

Important Documents ☒

Flashlight & Batteries ☒

Water & Food ☒

Extra Clothes ☒

Hygiene Kit ☒

**Stay prepared and stay safe!
Here is everything you need in
your emergency go-bag.**

Questions? Please call Public
Health at 541.240.8697.

Commitment to the Community

Wildfire emergencies can create uncertainty and hardship for families. The CTUIR Education Department remains committed to serving the community while being mindful of the health and safety of those we serve. We appreciate your patience, flexibility, and cooperation as conditions continue to change. Thank you for your understanding and continued collaboration as we work together to best support our community as an organization.

Air Quality Index (AQI) Resources

*Links to live AQI
Information*

[PURPLEAIR](#)

[WATCH
DUTY](#)

[CTUIR DEWS DASHBOARD](#)

[Be Smoke Ready: Know the Colors of the Air Quality Index \(AQI\)](#)

What is the U.S. Air Quality Index (AQI)?

The U.S. AQI is the Environmental Protection Agencies' index for reporting air quality.

How does the AQI work?

The U.S. Air Quality Index (AQI) is EPA's tool for communicating about outdoor air quality and health. The AQI includes six color-coded categories, each corresponding to a range of index values. The higher the AQI value, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern. For example, an AQI value of 50 or below represents good air quality, while an AQI value over 300 represents hazardous air quality.

For each pollutant an AQI value of 100 generally corresponds to an ambient air concentration that equals the level of the short-term national ambient air quality standard for protection of public health. AQI values at or below 100 are generally thought of as satisfactory. When AQI values are above 100, air quality is unhealthy: at first for certain sensitive groups of people, then for everyone as AQI values get higher.

The AQI is divided into six categories. Each category corresponds to a different level of health concern. Each category also has a specific color. The color makes it easy for people to quickly determine whether air quality is reaching unhealthy levels in their communities.

Source: US EPA, Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS)

<https://www.airnow.gov>

AQI Basics for Ozone and Particle Pollution

Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern	Values of Index	Description of Air Quality
Green	Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Purple	Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Maroon	Hazardous	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.

Source: US EPA, Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS)
<https://www.airnow.gov>