

# Produce Safety after Urban Wildfire Community Science Curriculum

University of California Cooperative Extension Sonoma County

**A free, downloadable curriculum guide for those interested in leading community workshops on post-fire food safety.**

## **Summary Description:**

- Short version: Learn how wildfire impacts the safety of local produce & eggs
- Long version: Learn how wildfire impacts the health and safety of locally grown produce and backyard chicken eggs from home, school, community gardens and local farms.

## **Key Stakeholders:**

- Local and state government officials, e.g. agriculture, public health, & environmental health agencies
- School, community, and home gardeners
- Local farmers, farm workers, and ag support organizations
- Environmental justice advocates and those living and working in food insecure communities

## **Learning Objectives:**

- Understand potential risk of contamination for produce and eggs, within a larger context of cumulative risk of exposure, environmental health, and benefits of local food and community food security.
- Equip other communities with ability to replicate study in their community
- Increase the air pollution and environmental health knowledge of communities engaged in local food (and vice versa). Understand how toxins can spread through smoke and ash and may impact other parts of the environment.
- Understand how to reduce community and individual risk.
  - Understand the concept of cumulative health impacts and how we are exposed to toxins day-to-date
  - Promote awareness of air pollution and soil health/mitigation strategies during and after wildfire events
  - Reflect on potential exposures in daily life (and during wildfire) and individual and communities vulnerable and protective factors
- Build a body of knowledge on an emerging health topic

## **Curriculum Outline:**

- Wildfire Environmental Contaminants Review
- Produce Study: Plant & Soil Sample Methods & Results
- Egg Study: Backyard Chicken Egg Methods & Results

- Cumulative Risk Assessment Methods & Results
- Best Practices for Reducing Risk

### Food Safety After Urban Wildfire PowerPoint Review

- How does air pollution from urban wildfire introduce harmful chemicals into our environment?
- How does air pollution get introduced into our bodies?
- Environmental pathways: dermal, consumption, inhalation
- What toxins did we choose to evaluate?
- How does air pollution affect our (community's) health, and what is considered unsafe?
- Produce Safety citizen science research project, methods and results
- Backyard Chicken Eggs research project, methods and results
- Cumulative risk assessment methodology
  - Understanding risks
  - Social determinants of health
    - Why are some people more affected by air pollution than others?
  - Smoke inhalation risks
- Best practices to protect yourself
  - Importance of local food system
  - Risk reduction practices

### Resources:

- Produce Safety After Urban Wildfire web page:  
[http://cesonoma.ucanr.edu/Disaster\\_Resources/Crop\\_Resources/Produce\\_Safety\\_after\\_Urban\\_Wildfire/](http://cesonoma.ucanr.edu/Disaster_Resources/Crop_Resources/Produce_Safety_after_Urban_Wildfire/)
- Powerpoint presentation: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/SoCo/files/315559.pdf> and Webinar:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pKJaeSH09fNYWZPqFEyJxL0bsIJL-vI8/view?ts=5dc35045>
- Social media jpg with recommended social media sample blurb:  
<https://ucanr.edu/sites/SoCo/files/315095.pdf> and  
<http://ucanr.edu/sites/SoCo/files/315098.jpg>
- Guide to Understanding Risk: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/SoCo/files/308873.pdf>
- Produce Safety After Urban Wildfire Cumulative Risk Assessment Report:  
<https://ucanr.edu/sites/SoCo/files/308873.pdf>
- Suggested Best Practices for Produce Safety After a Fire:  
<https://ucanr.edu/sites/SoCo/files/315093.pdf>



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