



Upper Valley MEND gleaning safety and smoke guidelines.

We appreciate your desire to help! To keep everyone healthy, the following guidelines are in place. Thank you for flexibility and support.

- Do not volunteer if you are sick.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided prior to and after the volunteer session.
- Gloves are available for those that wish to wear them.

Upper Valley MEND gleaning smoke policy.

Wildfires and smoke are a common occurrence during the summer in our area of the state. We recognize the affects smoke can have on the health of our staff and volunteers. Below is our policy for the gleaning program based on the air quality ratings in the areas we are gleaning.

The morning before each glean, staff will check the air quality for the location, or closest location, to the glean site. Volunteers will be contacted if the glean is cancelled due to air quality. Staff should keep an eye on the forecasted air quality for the areas we will be in each week.

Clean – Keep going as normal.

Moderate – Keep going as normal but be ready for changes in the air quality. Reach out to volunteers to let them know the air quality is less than clear.

Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups – Check in with volunteers to let them know what the air quality is. If they fall under the category of ‘sensitive groups’ then we recommend that they do not come to the gleaning event.

Unhealthy – No gleaning event should occur.

Very Unhealthy – No gleaning event should occur.

Hazardous – No gleaning event should occur.

Resources for finding out more about air quality:

-AirVisual App

-[AirNow.gov](https://airnow.gov)

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0 to 50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151 to 200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.
Hazardous	301 to 500	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.