



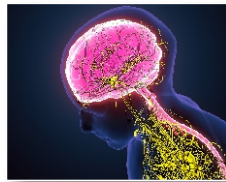
# How Wildfire Smoke Affects the Body

A recent study from Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, found that **smoke from wildfires can be up to 10 times more dangerous than other types of pollution, even traffic emissions.**



## It Harms the Immune System:

Particles in wildfire smoke are so small they can actually bypass some of our immune system defenses. Under ideal circumstances we have special immune cells that are supposed to seek out harmful material and remove or destroy it (think Pac Man!). However, these Pac Man cells can be suppressed by repeated exposure to high levels of wood smoke (think Kryptonite!).



## It Harms the Brain and Nervous System:

Studies involving data from millions of patients or volunteers have associated exposure to particulate matter with increased risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease, cognitive dysfunction, and neurodegenerative disorders across all age groups. PM2.5 can also increase a person's risk for TIAs as well as ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke.



## It Increases the Risk of Covid-19:

Exposure to wildfire smoke not only increases one's chance of contracting Covid-19 but their likelihood of developing the more severe symptoms. In fact, a German scientist named Yaron Ogen, said that air pollution could be "one of the most important contributors" to the Covid-19 death rate. Studies have shown that even a small increase in PM2.5 correlated to an increase in COVID-19-related deaths.



The Medical Grade HEPA used in the Austin Air Healthmate Plus® effectively removes up to 99% of pollutants larger than 0.1 microns. It also eliminates a wide range of gases, chemicals, VOCs, and formaldehyde, making it the best choice for people exposed to wildfire smoke.