

GIMME AIR-SHELTER

Wildfire Relief and the Public Library

Katie Rickard, MLIS

The Problem

- ★ The summer of 2018 became “Smoke Season” on the west coast. Spokane had a record number of days with poor air quality.
- ★ Fire and smoke in the summer is a growing trend for the west, which means poor air quality for many communities and often most directly affecting the most vulnerable populations.
- ★ How can libraries respond to this problem in their communities?

Why Libraries?

- ★ Libraries have a history of acting as “first responders” and “safe havens” for affected communities.
- ★ Libraries often step up during times of disaster and hardship, and will need to start planning for future disruptions in their communities.

The Research

- ★ Interviews with various stakeholders
- ★ Review of the literature
- ★ Document analysis

The Main Ideas

Before and During Smoke Event



Impact and Next Steps

- ★ Created an Ideas and Resources guide for public libraries
- ★ Made recommendations for Spokane Public Library remodel
- ★ Develop programming and partnerships with local organizations
- ★ Continue to watch community impact and iterate on ideas