**For Immediate Release**

DATE:

MEDIA CONTACT:

**(RACE NAME) Scheduled for (DATE)**

**must be altered due to Poor Air Quality**

Due to the unhealthful air quality in (AREA/LOCATION) because of smoke from (NAME OF WILDFIRE OR CAUSE OF HIGH AQI) wildfire, the organizers of the (EVENT NAME) have determined that the event distance must be significantly reduced in distance to help safeguard the well-being of volunteers and participants. As a result, the (OUTLINE DISTANCE: ie HALF MARARTHON, MARATHON+) will now be run as a (OUTLINE UPDATED DISTANCES: ie 5K, 10K or reduce marathon to half marathon).

“It is with regret that we announce this change for the event,” reports (RACE DIRECTOR NAME OR PERSON OF AUTHORITY FOR CANCELLING) “However, our first commitment is always to the health and safety of our runners and volunteers.”

According to recommendations for our area outlined on [Airnow.gov](https://www.airnow.gov/), the air quality (AQI) along the course moved into the “Unhealthy” (or OUTLINE COLOR RANGE) range due to wind directions (OR PROXIMITY TO A HIGH AQI EVENT). In coordination with local officials, the current and projected AQI for race day remains at unhealthy levels, and therefore the need to reduce both participant and volunteer outdoor exposure time.

Race organizers are notifying all participants, volunteers, sponsors, vendors, and venues of the change for the event as soon as possible. Registered runners will have the option to (OUTLINE ANY DEFERRAL OR REFUND OPTION).

“This fire is a tragic event for our community in so many ways,” (RACE DIRECTOR) said. “We are confident the running community will agree that this was the right decision.

All instructions for participants will be posted at (WEBSITE).