

## **Smoke from Walker Fire filters into the valley**

by Kimberly Kolliner

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FRESNO, Calif. — The Walker Fire, burning in Calaveras County, is about 100 miles away from the valley but it's having smoke impacts in various spots.

Its large plumes of smoke shot up into the sky, getting to about 5,000 feet, which was caught on satellite imagery.

The smoke then caught onto our jet stream and mixed in with our air flow.

"It is almost like a river in the atmosphere that is flowing down towards the valley," said Jamie Holt, with the Valley Air District.

The good news, however, is the smoke is staying suspended above us.

"We're thinking that that smoke will stay high in the atmosphere so it won't be here at ground level but it is the type of thing we want to pay attention to because if this year is like years past, there will be cases when the wildfires will bring smoke into the valley so we need to be prepared," said Holt.

Our neighbors in Arizona haven't been as lucky with major fires causing major smoke impacts, and so the Valley Air District says it's time to prepare.

"The one thing we tell people if you can see smoke, if you can smell smoke, stay inside. That's the number one thing you can do when we're having these smoke impacts," said Holt.

You can also prepare by keeping your air conditioning filters in your home clean, by frequently replacing the filters in your car, and by buying an air purifier.