

News Release

For immediate release

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For: Local News, Health and
Weather sections



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Kern County wildfire impacts foothills

Kern, Tulare counties feel effects; shifting winds may impact Fresno, Madera counties

Smoke from the Bull wildfire in Kern County is affecting foothill communities in Kern and Tulare counties, and foothill communities in Fresno and Madera counties may become affected midweek as wind patterns shift, Air District officials said.

The health caution is in effect until the wildfire is extinguished.

Smoke from wildfires contains particulate matter, a form of pollution that is dangerous to human health. High readings of particulate matter – small pieces of airborne material such as soot and ash – can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections.

In the event of exposure to smoke, people with heart or lung diseases should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of unhealthy air quality. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion.

The Air District provides current air quality information as well as forecasts that take fire impacts into account. For air-quality forecasts by county, residents can call toll-free (1 800 SMOG INFO) or visit www.valleyair.org.

For more information about the Valley Air District, call a regional office: in Fresno, 559-230-6000; in Bakersfield, 661-392-5500; and in Modesto, 209-557-6400.

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