

News Release

For immediate release

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Attn: Local news, weather and assignment editors



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Lion Fire smoke impacts Tulare County mountain areas

Air officials issue health caution

Local air officials are issuing a health cautionary statement for residents of the Tulare County mountain communities of Johnsondale, Ponderosa and Camp Nelson because of smoke impacts from the Lion Fire.

Additionally, officials expect deteriorating dispersion conditions to carry smoke toward the air basin, potentially affecting the Springville-Porterville area, over the weekend.

“The Air District continues to monitor the situation closely,” said Jaime Holt, the Air District’s chief communications officer.

Residents in affected areas are urged to take precautionary measures as appropriate for their local air quality conditions and health situations. The health caution will be updated as necessary until the fire is extinguished.

Smoke contains particulate matter, a form of pollution that is dangerous to human health. High levels 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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