

News Release

For immediate release

8-14-12

Attn: Local news, health and weather sections



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Wildfires send smoke to northern counties

Officials encourage using RAAN to gauge local air quality

Numerous wildfires throughout Northern California are sending smoke to the northern counties in the San Joaquin Valley air basin, prompting officials to issue a health cautionary statement.

Residents in San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties-- in particular, the communities of Manteca and Stockton – can expect smoke impacts this afternoon because of a stubborn high-pressure system and wind patterns.

“If you are being affected by smoke, take measures to minimize your exposure,” said Jaime Holt, the District’s chief communications officer.

Smoke produces large quantities of particulate matter, which can exacerbate or cause respiratory disease and lung damage.

The District provides an effective, free tool to help residents determine their localized air quality. The Real-Time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) is an automated data-delivery service that links a subscriber’s computer or smartphone to the air monitor of their choice and delivers hourly data as conditions change. RAAN also contains outdoor activity guidelines for periods of poor air quality. For more information and to subscribe to RAAN, visit (http://www.valleyair.org/Programs/RAAN/raan_landing.htm).

Smoke from wildfires may affect various parts of the northern air basin through the upcoming weekend and may remain as long as the fires continue.

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.