

News Release

For immediate release

DATE 7-29-13



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



Attn: Local news, weather, health and assignment editors

Northern region – Modesto
Anthony Presto (209) 557-6472
Central region – Fresno
Heather Heinks (559) 230-5898
Southern region – Bakersfield
Jaime Holt (661) 381-1809
Spanish-language contact
Ana Reyes (559) 230-5851

Aspen Fire sends smoke to foothill and mountain areas

Health caution for Merced, Madera, Fresno and Tulare counties

The Aspen Fire burning near Huntington Lake has prompted local air officials to issue a health cautionary statement for smoke impacts in the foothill and mountain areas of **Merced, Madera, Fresno and Tulare counties**. The caution is in place until the fire is extinguished.

Smoke from fires produces fine-particulate matter (PM2.5), which can cause serious health problems including lung disease, asthma attacks and increased risk of heart attacks and stroke. Where conditions warrant, people with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of particulate exposure. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy exertion, depending on their local conditions.

Residents can check the nearest air monitor to their location to determine localized air-quality conditions. Visit the Real-time Air Advisory Network page on the District's website to subscribe for free: http://www.valleyair.org/Programs/RAAN/raan_landing.htm. They can also receive updated fire information at: <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3552/>.

For more information, visit www.valleyair.org or call a District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-381-1809).