

News Release

For immediate release

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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

Health caution for smoke impacts from fires

Aspen, northern California / Oregon fires pose weekend threat

The Central California Aspen Fire and fires burning in northern California and Oregon have prompted local air officials to issue a health cautionary statement for smoke impacts at various locations in the Valley through the weekend.

The Aspen Fire near Huntington Lake is sending smoke primarily to San Joaquin River drainage areas, including the communities of Prather, Auberry, Shaver Lake and Huntington Lake.

Meanwhile, fires in northern California and Oregon have the potential to send smoke to the northern region of the Valley air basin, including the counties of San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced.

“As always, the best rule of thumb for residents is that if you can see and smell smoke, take appropriate precautions,” said Samir Sheikh, the Air District’s director of air quality analysis.

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/>

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).