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Wildfire may pose health concern over Labor Day Weekend

Smoke from the Rough Fire may impact holiday camping with potential to reach Valley floor

The Rough Fire has prompted local air officials to issue a health cautionary statement for smoke impacts throughout the **Tulare and Fresno County foothill and mountain communities** during the Labor Day weekend. Those individuals planning to camp or recreate in these areas should be advised that they may be seriously impacted by smoke. Smoke impacts on the Valley floor will also become possible Saturday evening and into next week potentially affecting **Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings and the Valley air basin portion of Kern Counties**. Potential impacts from wildfire smoke will continue to be a concern 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. If possible, individuals should remove themselves from those areas where there are direct smoke impacts.

People with existing respiratory conditions, young children and elderly people are especially susceptible to health effects from these pollutants. Air District officials urge residents to follow their doctors' orders when exposed to fire emissions.

Residents can check the District's wildfire page at www.valleyair.org/wildfires for information about any current wildfires and whether they are impacting the Valley.

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).