

**For immediate release 04-30-15**

**Attn: Local news, weather, health and assignment editors**

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## **Air officials issue smoke health caution** ***Large industrial fire in Fresno affects central and southern Valley***

Smoke from a large industrial fire in Fresno may periodically affect air quality in **Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern counties** until the fire is extinguished, local air officials said. The health 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.

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.

The Air District also provides the Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN), which delivers monitoring data directly to users' computers. It's free and easy to subscribe: [www.valleyair.org/RAAN](http://www.valleyair.org/RAAN).

For more information about the Air District, visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) or call a District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-392-5500).