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Hay fire may pose health concern for people in southwest Fresno

Hay fire on Cherry Ave is impacting parts of Fresno County

A hay fire is burning on Cherry Ave, between North and Central Ave. in Fresno and has prompted local air officials to issue a health cautionary statement for smoke impacts throughout southwest Fresno until the fire is extinguished. Smoke is impacting parts of southwest Fresno, and may reach other parts of Fresno County today.

If you can smell and see smoke, that is an indication that you should be treating air quality conditions as a RAAN Level 4 or higher (<http://www.valleyair.org/Programs/RAAN/documents/RAAN-AQ-activity-guidance-chart.pdf>).

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.

For more information, visit the Real-time Air Advisory Network at www.valleyair.org/RAAN or call a District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-381-1809).