

Combination of smoke, hot temps prompts health warning

Sun-Star Staff

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Valley residents continued to see poor air quality due to smoke from the Rough fire burning east of Fresno on Monday, with conditions expected to last into midweek.

Air officials sent out a new health caution Monday reminding residents to limit outdoor exposure when possible.

Continued high pressure, calm winds and strong morning inversions are creating conditions for poor air quality through Wednesday. In addition to the wildfire emissions, the region's high temperatures and stagnant conditions increased the potential for elevated ground-level ozone formation across the Valley in the early afternoon and evenings.

Particulate and ozone can cause serious health problems including lung disease, asthma attacks, and increased risk of heart attacks and stroke. People with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of particulate exposure.

Older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy exertion, as they are more susceptible.

Temperatures this week are expected to hover over the low to mid-90s, according to the National Weather Service. Monday's temperatures crept into the triple digits.

Residents can check the district's wildfire page at www.valleyair.org/wildfires for information about current wildfires and their impact on the Valley.