News Release
For immediate release
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For: Local News, Health and Weather sections

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Mountain fire impacts Sequoia-Kings Park area

Smoke impacts from the Redwood Mountain prescribed burn project in Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park are occurring in areas around Montecito/Sequoia Lodge. Valley air officials said smoke impacts will continue, especially during the overnight and early morning hours, until burn operations are completed.

Officials advise people in the vicinity of the burn, which straddles Tulare and Fresno counties, to be aware of local conditions until the burn is extinguished.

Smoke contains particulate matter, a form of pollution that is dangerous to human health. High levels of particulate matter – small pieces of airborne material such as soot and ash – can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections.

In the event of exposure to smoke, people with heart or lung diseases should follow their doctors’ advice for dealing with episodes of unhealthy air quality. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion.

The Air District provides current air quality information as well as forecasts that take fire impacts into account. For air-quality forecasts by county, residents can call toll-free (1 800 SMOG INFO) or visit www.valleyair.org.

For more information about the Valley Air District, call a regional office: in Fresno, 559-230-6000; in Bakersfield, 661-392-5500; and in Modesto, 209-557-6400.

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