

News Release

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San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Wildfire season under way *Drought brings increased risk of fire emissions to Valley*

The annual wildfire season is upon the Valley as record low rainfall last winter created conditions that may make wildfires more prevalent this summer, along with the possibility of air-fouling emissions in the air basin.

Wildfires in the surrounding mountains can send pollution to the Valley floor, including particulates and ozone precursors. Each summer, the Air District monitors the wildfire situation and keeps residents informed of potential impacts, as well as ways to protect themselves.

Residents can check the District's wildfire page --- www.valleyair.org/wildfires --- for information about any current wildfires and whether they are impacting the Valley. The District also provides the Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN), an automated reporting system that delivers data directly to users' computers. It's free and easy to subscribe! Visit <http://www.valleyair.org/RAAN> for complete instructions.

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 wildfire emissions.

Take precautions to prevent wildfires, including taking great care with using fire outdoors and putting out campfires (where campfires are permitted).

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