

**For immediate release 06-19-15**

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

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## **Fires impact foothills and mountainous areas** *Wildfires in Madera & Mariposa counties prompt health caution*

Three wildfires, Sky and Corrine Fires in Madera County and Triangle Fire in Mariposa County, have prompted local air officials to issue a health cautionary statement for smoke impacts in the eastern portions of **Merced**, **Madera** and **Fresno** Counties. The caution is in place until the fires are 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.

Residents can check the District's wildfire page at [www.valleyair.org/wildfires](http://www.valleyair.org/wildfires) for information about current wildfires and whether they are impacting the Valley. Residents can also check the nearest air monitor to their location to determine localized air-quality conditions by visiting [www.valleyair.org/RAAN](http://www.valleyair.org/RAAN).

For more information, 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).