

News Release

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For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

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TO:
Local news sections;
breaking news

Fire, smoke prompt health warning Tire fire south of Sanger affecting local schools, residents

Smoke from a fire in Sanger has prompted local air-pollution officials to issue a health cautionary statement until the fire is extinguished.

The smoke is affecting or could affect the communities of southeastern Fresno County, including the cities of Sanger, Centerville, Del Rey, Parlier, Reedley, Fresno and Clovis. The fire, fueled by tires and other debris, started around 11 p.m. Tuesday night and is located on private property near Academy Ave. and North Ave.

Air District officials urge residents to use caution until the fire is extinguished and the smoke dissipates.

“If you smell smoke or see smoke, it probably is a strong enough concentration to cause harm,” said Shawn Ferreria, a meteorologist for the District.

Air District staff members have notified Sanger Unified School District and area schools that smoke may be a problem in their locales. The school district has indicated they will keep students indoors in regions that are affected by smoke.

Exposure to particle pollution, such as smoke, can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, cause asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections. In people with heart disease, short-term exposure to particle pollution has been linked to heart attacks and arrhythmias, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Residents in affected areas are advised to use caution as long as the fire is burning or when smoke is present. 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 daily air-quality forecast for Thursday will be available at 4 p.m. at www.valleyair.org or 1-800 SMOG INFO (1-800-766-4463). Regardless of the forecast, smoke from the fire could get better or worse at any time, so residents should use their best judgment to protect their health.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern. For more information, visit [http://www.valleyair.org/](http://www.valleyair.org) or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.