

News Release

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For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

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sections**

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Plumas fire sends smoke to Valley

Air officials urge caution as conditions dictate

A large wildfire in northern California is sending a smoke plume through the Valley, prompting local air-pollution officials to issue a health cautionary statement.

The Moonlight Fire in Plumas County, northeast of Sacramento, is affecting air quality in San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced counties, and may affect counties farther south including Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern counties as the day progresses.

“The fire is sending a large plume of smoke down through the Valley and elevating particulate readings in some areas,” said Gary Arcemont, a meteorologist with the Valley Air District. Particulate matter – tiny pieces of material in the air including soot, ash and droplets of liquid – can aggravate respiratory conditions and cause asthma attacks. “If you smell smoke, you are probably breathing it.”

Localized air quality could fluctuate depending on smoke impacts. Residents of the eight-county air basin are advised to use caution as conditions warrant. 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, as conditions dictate.

For air quality forecasts by county, visit <http://www.valleyair.org/> or call 1-800-SMOG INFO (766-4463). Forecasts are updated daily at 4:30 p.m.

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 or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.