

News Release



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Sacramento-area wildfire smoke drifts south *Air officials urge caution in San Joaquin, Stanislaus counties*

(Oct. 14) A series of fires burning in Northern California that has caused poor air quality in the Sacramento area is affecting air quality in the northern region of the San Joaquin Valley air basin as well.

Air District officials advise residents of San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties to be cautious when spending time outdoors and to curtail strenuous activity if they smell or see smoke over the next 36 hours. Smoke carries small particles of soot, ash and toxins that are unhealthy. Breathing these particles can aggravate heart and lung conditions such as asthma, bronchitis and emphysema. Children, the elderly and people with respiratory problems are most at risk.

Two fires in El Dorado National Forest are affecting the basin's air quality. The District cautions that smoke may drift even further southward in the central and southern regions before the fires are contained.

Another fire, the largest of the three, has burned more than 36,000 acres in Napa and Yolo counties. It was 65 percent contained Thursday morning.

Air District officials offer these suggestions for residents in areas affected by smoke:

- If possible, try to remain indoors until the smoke clears.
- Recirculate indoor air.
- If you or a family member experiences difficulty breathing or prolonged headaches or dizziness, seek medical attention.

Residents can check the forecasted air quality by county at www.valleyair.org or by calling 1-800-SMOG INFO (766-4463).

