

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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Fires send smoke to Valley *District issues health caution*

Southern California fires are sending smoke into the San Joaquin Valley, prompting local air-pollution officials to issue a health cautionary statement.

The fires are expected to affect San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Kings, Tulare and the western portion of Kern counties, District forecasters said.

Because of the uncertainty of when these fires could be extinguished, the cautionary statement is in effect for the next several days.

"These fires are producing large amounts of smoke, which is resulting in increasing particulate concentrations," said Gary Arcemont, a meteorologist for the District. "If you smell smoke, take precautions to avoid health impacts."

Exposure to particle pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, cause asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections.

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.

The air-quality forecast for today is in the moderate range in most parts of the Valley, but air quality is deteriorating. Localized air quality could become unhealthy for sensitive groups in areas impacted by smoke, forecasters said. Daily forecasts are available after 4 p.m. at 1-800 SMOG INFO (766-4463) and www.valleyair.org.

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