



# VALLEY AIR NEWS

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Kings Canyon National Park

## Wildfires threaten Valley public health District calls season's first Air Alert

*A monthly publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - September 2015*

Smoke from the Rough Fire burning in Fresno and Tulare Counties and the Butte Fire burning in Amador and Calaveras Counties caused the Air District to extend Valley-wide health cautions during the second week of September.

Some areas even experienced visible ash falling from the sky. While the falling ash is a clear indicator of wildfire smoke and an impact on local air quality, the District advised residents that RAAN monitors are designed to detect the fine particulate matter present in wildfire smoke. Ash particles are too large in size to be detected by these monitors.

During the wildfires, the District was able to refer residents to several valuable resources on the District's webpage to help them assess the local smoke impacts and protect themselves from exposure:

- The District's wildfire page at [www.valleyair.org/wildfires](http://www.valleyair.org/wildfires) for information on wildfires impacting the Valley.
- The Real-time Air Advisory Network [www.valleyair.org/RAAN](http://www.valleyair.org/RAAN) to view local air quality in real time.
- Press releases posted on the District's webpage and issued to media Valley-wide.

Amidst the week-long advisory period, which began September 8, the District also issued its first Air Alert of the season. Pollutants generated

from wild fires, increased vehicle traffic consistent with schools being back in session and the stagnant summer heat, drove up ozone levels in the Valley and the necessity for the District to urge residents to minimize smog-forming emissions by:

- Carpooling and vanpooling
- Using alternative transportation such as mass transit
- Linking trips (doing all your errands at once) to reduce vehicle miles traveled
- Eliminating vehicle idling/refraining from using drive-through services

In addition to asking residents to help keep the air quality from worsening, businesses were also asked to reduce workplace-centered emissions by:

- Ordering lunch in to eliminate the need for employees to drive during lunch
- Offering scheduling flexibility to reduce commute-time traffic
- Making telecommuting available to employees

The Air Alert was called on September 9 and ended the evening of September 11. In spite of elevated ozone levels formed by wildfire emissions, the San Joaquin Valley still boasts the cleanest summer on record and remains on track for meeting the 1997 federal 8-Hour Ozone Standard before its 2024 deadline.

### Wildfire Information Page



Entries for the Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar Contest are due Oct. 5. Click on the drawing below for entry information.



Make sure to register your EPA Certified wood-burning device before the beginning-of-the-season rush.

*click on the logo below.*



**CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN**