

News Release

For immediate release

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For: Local News, Health and
Weather sections



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Sheep wildfire impacts Fresno, Tulare mountains and foothills

Air District officials are issuing a health cautionary statement for mountain and foothill communities in Fresno and Tulare counties because of smoke impacts from the Sheep wildfire.

Additionally, officials said shifting wind patterns over the next few days may extend smoke impacts to eastern portions of the San Joaquin Valley.

The health caution is in effect until the wildfire is extinguished.

Smoke from wildfires contains particulate matter, a form of pollution that is dangerous to human health. High readings of particulate matter – small pieces of airborne material such as soot and ash – can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections.

In the event of exposure to smoke, 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 Air District provides current air quality information as well as forecasts that take fire impacts into account. For air-quality forecasts by county, residents can call toll-free (1 800 SMOG INFO (766-4463) or visit www.valleyair.org.

For more information about the Valley Air District, call a regional office: in Fresno, 559-230-6000; in Bakersfield, 661-392-5500; and in Modesto, 209-557-6400.

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