

News Release

For immediate release

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For: Local News, Health and Weather sections



Central District Media Contact - Fresno

Jaime Holt (559) 230-5850

Southern District Media Contact –
Bakersfield

Brenda Turner (661) 392-5581

Spanish language Media Contact

Claudia Encinas (559) 230-5851

Wildfire smoke affects Fresno, Tulare, Kern counties

Air officials are issuing a health cautionary statement for smoke impacts from two wildfires burning in the San Joaquin Valley air basin, which are affecting communities in Fresno, Tulare and Kern counties.

The Sheep wildfire in Kings Canyon National Park is sending smoke to *mountain and foothill areas* in **Fresno and Tulare counties**, and particularly impacting *Cedar Grove and Hume Lake*. Further south, the Canyon Fire is impacting *mountain, foothill and eastern portions* of **Kern County**.

Additionally, officials said continued high pressure 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 wildfires are 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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