

News Release

For immediate release

DATE 5-2-13



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



Attn: Local news, weather, health and assignment editors

Northern region - Modesto
Anthony Presto (209) 557-6472
Central region – Fresno
Janelle Schneider (559) 230-5853
Southern region – Bakersfield
Jaime Holt (661) 381-1809
Spanish-language contact
Ana Reyes (559) 230-5851

Air officials issue north Valley health caution

Wildfires send smoke to air basin

Wildfires in Tehama County and the Sacramento Valley are sending smoke to the northern Valley counties of the Air District, especially **San Joaquin and Stanislaus**, prompting local air officials to issue a health cautionary statement.

The health caution is in effect through Saturday although smoke impacts may remain until the fires are extinguished.

Smoke from fires produces fine-particulate matter (PM2.5), which can cause serious health problems including lung disease, asthma attacks and increased risk of heart attacks and stroke. Where conditions warrant, people with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of particulate exposure. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy exertion, depending on their local conditions.

Residents can check the nearest air monitor to their location to determine localized conditions. Visit the Real-time Air Advisory Network page on the District's website to subscribe for free: http://www.valleyair.org/Programs/RAAN/raan_landing.htm.

For more information, visit www.valleyair.org or call a District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-381-1809).