

News Release

For immediate release

September 19, 2014



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



Attn: Local news, weather, health and assignment editors

Media cell phone: 559-309-3336

King Fire sends smoke to north, central and southern counties

Health caution for entire basin

The King Fire burning in El Dorado County has prompted local air officials to issue a health cautionary statement for smoke impacts in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and the Valley air basin portion of Kern County and may continue to impact the Valley as long as it burns, local air officials said.

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 District's wildfire page --- www.valleyair.org/wildfires.htm -- for information about any current wildfires and whether they are impacting the Valley. Residents can also check the nearest air monitor to their location to determine localized air-quality 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).