

**For immediate release 05/14/2019**

**Attn: Local news, health and assignment editors**

**Northern region – Modesto**

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## **Pallet fire in Stockton prompts health caution**

Smoke from a pallet fire in downtown Stockton is affecting air quality in Stockton and has the potential to impact the east side of San Joaquin County. The health caution will remain in place and smoke impacts are likely until the fire is 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. People with existing respiratory conditions, young children and elderly people are especially susceptible to health effects from these pollutants. Air District officials urge residents to follow their doctors' orders when exposed to PM2.5 and stay indoors if at all possible.

Residents can use the District's Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) to track air quality at any Valley address by visiting [myRAAN.com](http://myRAAN.com). The RAAN monitors are designed to detect the microscopic PM2.5 particles that exist in smoke. Ash pieces, however, are much larger in size and will not be detected. If an area is impacted by smoke and ash fall, air quality should be considered "unhealthy" (RAAN Level 4 or higher) even if the monitor reflects a lower reading. In addition, anyone can follow air quality conditions by downloading the free "Valley Air" app.

For more information, visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) or call a District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-392-5500).