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Attn: Local news, health and assignment editors

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Pallet fire in Stockton prompts health caution

Smoke from a pallet fire in east Stockton is affecting local air quality. Current, stagnant conditions increase the potential of smoke impacting other areas of San Joaquin County. The District is issuing a health caution, which will remain in place until the blaze 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 in impacted areas to avoid exposure to PM2.5 and stay indoors in an air-conditioned environment if possible.

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