

It's back: That yellow haze in the sky is wildfire smoke

By Barbara Anderson

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Smoke from wildfires is back in Fresno, and it's affecting air quality across the central San Joaquin Valley.

The yellow haze in the air on Friday was smoke from the Ranch Fire and other Northern California and Oregon fires, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District said.

The smoke is expected to hang in the air throughout the weekend and a health caution will remain in effect, the air district said.

Smoke from [wildfires produces tiny particles that can be inhaled](#) and trigger asthma attacks, aggravate chronic heart and lung conditions, and increase the risk of heart attack and stroke.

The air district recommends people with heart or lung disease follow doctor's advice for exposure to smoke. People with lung conditions, young children and older adults should take precautions to avoid exposure because they are more susceptible to health effects. And everyone should try to avoid the smoke and stay inside air-conditioned homes and buildings, if possible.

Air quality can be tracked by the district's Real-time Air Advisory Network. The monitors detect small particles in smoke, but are not able to record larger ash pieces. If an area is covered in ash, air quality is bad.

Air district urges caution due to smokey conditions

By the Business Journal Staff

The Business Journal, Friday, August 24, 2018

Even as the weather is cooling down, wildfire smoke is once again an issue in the San Joaquin Valley.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has issued a health caution due to smoke from the Ranch Fire in Mendocino County and other Northern California and Oregon fires. Smoke impacts are expected to continue throughout the weekend, with the health caution remaining in effect until the fires are extinguished.

Wildfire smoke is of particular concern since it contains particulate matter that can trigger asthma attacks, aggravate chronic heart and lung diseases and increase the risk of heart attack and stroke.

Residents can use the District's Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) to track air quality at any Valley address by visiting [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 covered in ash, air quality should be considered "unhealthy" (RAAN Level 4 or higher) even if the monitor reflects a lower reading.

The public can check the District's wildfire page at [www.valleyair.org/wildfires](#) for information about any current wildfires and whether they are impacting the Valley.