

News Release

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For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

TO:
Local News, Health and Weather
sections

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Smoke from Mariposa fire drifts to foothills

A prescribed fire in Mariposa County is affecting air quality in some areas of the Valley air basin, prompting local air-pollution officials to issue a health cautionary statement.

The PW-17 prescribed fire being conducted by Yosemite National Park (in Mariposa County), which is outside the boundaries of the Valley Air District, is sending smoke into foothill and mountain communities in Fresno and Madera counties this afternoon, District forecasters said.

Because of the uncertainty of when this fire will be extinguished, the cautionary statement is in effect for the next several days. Due to changing wind patterns over the next few days, other areas may be impacted.

“Smoke from the fire is resulting in elevated particulate readings in areas of the mountains and foothills,” said Shawn Ferreria, an atmospheric scientist for the District. “If you smell smoke, you are likely being impacted.”

Exposure to particle pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, cause asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections.

People with heart or lung diseases in affected areas should follow their doctors’ advice for dealing with episodes of unhealthy air quality. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion, as conditions dictate.

Depending on weather and wind patterns over the next several days, localized air quality could fluctuate. Daily air-quality forecasts by county are available at www.valleyair.org and by calling 1-800-SMOG INFO (766-4463).

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern. For more information, visit <http://www.valleyair.org> or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.