

**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**Valley Air District urges Fresno residents to be cautious through the weekend;
Asks residents in Central region of Valley to not burn wood**

Fresno, CA –The Valley Air District is asking residents in the Fresno/Clovis area to be cautious when spending time outdoors over the weekend. Parents are strongly urged to be vigilant of smoke when allowing children to play outdoors. Shifting winds are blowing smoke from the fire in southwest Fresno to disparate locations in the metropolitan area.

District officials indicate that individuals in some locations are experiencing unhealthy breathing conditions while nearby sites have only moderately polluted conditions. Additionally, Air District meteorologists report increased atmospheric stability at upper altitudes. This will limit dispersion of particulates at ground level.

Therefore, the Air District is asking residents to be cautious this weekend and is providing the following advice.

- If you can smell or see smoke, you most likely are in an area where air quality is poor.
- People with respiratory or heart conditions, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged outdoor exertion. Additionally, all others should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
- If possible, try to remain indoors, especially if you smell or see smoke.
- Recirculate indoor air.
- If you or a family member experiences difficulty breathing or prolonged headaches or dizziness, seek medical attention.
- Do not smoke, and avoid places where others are smoking.

(more)

To avoid adding more pollutants to the air, the Valley Air District is also asking residents to avoid the use of wood burning fireplaces, stoves and inserts through 4 p.m. Monday. This Please Don't Light Tonight request does not affect residents whose sole source of heat is wood-burning devices.

PM is a mixture of pollutants, including microscopic pieces of soot, ash, salts, nitrates and smoke particles. Breathing the particles can reduce lung function, especially in children; aggravate heart and lung conditions such as asthma, emphysema and bronchitis; increase the risk of heart attacks; irritate throats and sinuses; and trigger headaches and allergies.

Please notify your audience of the prevailing air quality conditions and possible health effects. For the daily air quality forecast, residents may call 1-800-SMOG-INFO (766-4463). The information is updated daily at 4 p.m. for that evening and the following day.