

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

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Air District issues cautionary health statement for the entire San Joaquin Valley**

Fresno, CA – Air Pollution Control Officer David L. Crow is cautioning residents in the San Joaquin Valley about smoke impacts from a number of fires spread over 17,000 acres in Alameda, Merced, San Joaquin, Santa Clara and Stanislaus counties.

“There are localized pockets throughout the San Joaquin Valley where smoke is creating unhealthy breathing conditions. We urge all residents to be aware of conditions in their vicinity. If you can smell smoke, you are probably in an area where air quality is poor,” Crow said.

Until all the fires are extinguished, residents in the San Joaquin Valley may experience unhealthy breathing conditions. The Valley Air District advises residents in locations impacted by smoke to adhere to the following protective measures:

- Avoid and/or limit strenuous outdoor physical activities that may increase breathing rates.
- If possible, try to remain indoors until the smoke clears.
- Keep doors and windows closed, recirculating indoor air.

Schools, daycare centers and youth programs in smoky areas are advised to suspend outdoor activities until the smoke dissipates.

(more)

The Air District will continue to monitor meteorological conditions and emissions each day. Due to prevailing wind patterns the localized pockets of smoke will continue to shift throughout the day across the San Joaquin Valley. "There is a chance we could continue to issue these cautionary statements until the fires are out," said Crow.

The airborne particles contained in smoke are a mixture of pollutants, including microscopic pieces of soot, ash, salts and nitrates. 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.

Agricultural burning is suspended until air quality conditions improve.

For the daily air quality report and hourly air monitoring station readings, residents may log onto the District's website: [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org). Regional air quality forecasts are also available at 1-800-766-4463. The information is updated daily at 4 p.m. for that evening and the following day.