



# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Pollution Levels Elevated**

### **Air District Warns Public About Smoke Exposure due to Wildfire**

Elevated levels of particulate matter (PM) caused by smoke from a wildfire outside of the City of Yountville is impacting the northern Bay Area, particularly Napa and Marin counties. Children, seniors and those with respiratory problems such as asthma are most susceptible to health problems due to high particulate levels. Smoke can irritate the eyes and airways, causing coughing, a scratchy throat and irritated sinuses.

Wildfires are naturally occurring and common this time of year when the humidity is low and a large amount of vegetation has accumulated in wooded areas.

"It's prudent to take precautions if your area is being affected by the fire," said Jack Broadbent, the Air District's Executive Officer. "If it's smoky outside, limit your exposure to the smoke. Keep your windows and doors closed. To prevent a breathing problem, it's wise to stay indoors," Broadbent said.

Although the highest PM levels in the Bay Area are normally recorded during the winter months localized events such as fires may elevate PM levels in areas impacted by smoke. The Air District has received numerous calls from the public and from schools regarding the smoke from the wildfire.

Residents are asked to pay attention to health advisories that may be issued by local County Health Officers in the event of a threat to public health due to smoke pollution.

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