



NEWS ADVISORY

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Contact: Karen M. Schkolnick
415-749-4900
After hours: 415 816-5353

Pollution Levels Elevated

Air District Warns Public about Smoke Exposure due to Wildfires

Elevated levels of particulate matter (PM) caused by smoke from two large Northern California wildfires are impacting air quality in the region. The "Moonlight" fire in Plumas National Forest in Plumas County near Greenville and the "Lick" fire in Henry Coe State Park near Morgan Hill are affecting air quality conditions in Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, Solano, and Santa Clara 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, keep your windows and doors closed. To minimize your exposure, 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 wildfires may elevate PM levels in certain areas impacted by smoke. The Air District has received numerous calls from the public and from schools regarding the smoke from these wildfires.

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 in their communities.

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