



BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

## NEWS ADVISORY

For Immediate Release  
September 6, 2007

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*Advisory in Effect until Further Notice*

### **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.

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. Although the highest PM levels in the Bay Area are normally recorded during the winter months, localized events such as these wildfires may elevate PM levels in certain areas. The Air District has received numerous calls from the public and from schools regarding potential health impacts.

"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. Residents who see or smell smoke should consider taking these precautionary measures:

- Keep windows and doors closed as much as possible
- Use the recycle or re-circulate mode on the air conditioner in your home or car
- Postpone outdoor activities, particularly those involving prolonged exertion

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. Persons experiencing severe symptoms should seek professional medical advice or treatment.

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 excessive smoke in their communities.

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