



NEWS

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Contact: Teresa Lee, 415-749-4900

Pollution Levels Elevated Air District Advises Public About Pollution due to Wildfire

Elevated levels of particulate matter (PM) caused by smoke from a wildfire in northern Yolo County are impacting the northern Bay Area, particularly Napa, Sonoma 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.

Northeasterly winds are carrying smoke from the fire, located in Rumsey Canyon in Yolo County, into the Bay Area. This wind pattern is expected to continue at least into Wednesday, according to Air District meteorologists.

"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. It's not a good time to jog or exercise. To prevent a breathing problem, it's wise to stay indoors," Broadbent said.

The highest PM levels in the Bay Area are normally recorded during the winter months. The PM levels that occurred this morning, however, are well above normal readings for this time of year. The Air District has received numerous calls from the public and from schools regarding the smoke from the wildfire.

The Air District monitors air quality throughout the nine Bay Area counties. Air quality readings and predictions for the following day are reported by 4:30 PM on the Air District's 800 HELP-Air line. The readings are also found on the www.sparetheair.org web site and are printed in several Bay Area newspapers. Additional advice on how to protect your health from the effects of smoke can be found at

www.airquality.org/smokeimpact.

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