



NEWS RELEASE

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Air quality advisory for smoke in the far South Bay through Monday *Smoke impacts possible from Park Fire*

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing an air quality advisory for smoke for the far South Bay, including Morgan Hill, San Martin and Gilroy through Monday, July 6.

Beginning late Saturday, the Park Fire broke out East of Morgan Hill. Air quality impacts are possible near the fire. Multiple brush fires were sparked throughout the region by fireworks during the Fourth of July holiday weekend. The current dry, hot and windy conditions increase the risk of grass and brush fires. The Air District will be closely monitoring air quality throughout the region for smoke impacts from fires as well as fireworks.

Onshore winds are expected to be light and are expected to become stronger throughout the day. Satellite imagery shows that smoke is being transported southeast of the Santa Clara Valley region. Currently, impacts include smoky skies, smell of smoke and localized elevated particle pollution.

If the smell of smoke is present, it is important that Bay Area residents protect their health by avoiding exposure. If possible, stay inside with windows and doors closed until smoke levels subside, if temperatures allow. It is also recommended that those impacted by smoke set their air conditioning units and car vent systems to re-circulate to prevent outside air from moving inside.

Smoke can irritate the eyes and airways, causing coughing, a dry scratchy throat and irritated sinuses. Elevated particulate matter in the air can trigger wheezing in those who suffer from asthma, emphysema or COPD. Elderly persons, children and individuals with respiratory illnesses are particularly susceptible to elevated air pollution levels and should take extra precautions to avoid exposure.

Check here for real-time air quality readings: <https://bit.ly/2p7UFgs>.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube.

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