

Mariposa County Health Department/Air Pollution Control District

Lake Don Pedro Smoke Report

09/11/13

The Health Department's air monitor in Lake Don Pedro has been showing Air Quality in the "Moderate" range over the past 24 hours, with some readings in the "Good" range. Better Air Quality than was predicted. As always, levels vary throughout the day and from day to day, so worse air quality is possible at any time over the next few days. Watch the air quality for yourself (see the visibility guidelines below).

For the most current air quality, go to the Mariposa County website, click on "Health" then click on the Air Quality link in the "Rim Fire Incident" page.

Health Recommendations:

- Use common sense. If it looks smoky outside, it's probably not a good time to go for a run. And it's probably not a good time for your children to play outdoors.
- If you have a heart or lung disease, if you are an older adult, or if you have children, talk with your doctor about whether, and when, you should leave the area.
- If you decide to remain:
 - Consider staying indoors to avoid breathing the smoke particles.
 - Run you air conditioner, if you have one.
 - Keep the fresh air intake closed, and the filters clean, to prevent bringing additional smoke inside. Note: if you don't have an air conditioner, staying inside with the windows closed may be dangerous in extremely hot weather. In these cases, seek alternative shelters.
 - A swamp cooler will not provide this protection, and will pull in the smoky air from outside.

Smoke particle pollution categories:

AQI Category	Visibility in Miles	Recommended Actions
Good	11 or more	None needed
Moderate	6 – 10	Reduce unnecessary outdoor activity. Avoid strenuous exercise outdoors.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	3 – 5	Sensitive groups should remain indoors as much as possible until air pollution improves (often better in afternoon).
Unhealthy	1.5 -2.75	Everyone should remain indoors as much as possible until air pollution improves (often better in afternoon).
Very Unhealthy	1 -1.25	Consider leaving the area. If not possible, remain indoors. Only go outdoors when air quality conditions improve.
Hazardous	Less than 1	Consider leaving the area. If not possible, remain indoors. Only go outdoors when air quality conditions improve.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to call 966-2220.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2014

Air Pollution Control District Contact:

Molly Pearson or Mary Byrd, 805-364-2247

County Public Health Department Contact:

Ellen Willis-Conger, 805-681-5446

**Air Quality Watch Issued for Lompoc Area
Smoke and Ash from Miguelito Fire May Impact Some Areas**

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department and the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District today issued an Air Quality Watch for the Lompoc Area of Santa Barbara County to be in effect as long as conditions warrant.

Smoke and ash from the Miguelito Fire could impact air quality. Levels of smoke and particles, and areas impacted will vary depending on winds and on the containment of the fire.

If you see or smell smoke in the air where you are, be cautious and use common sense to protect your family's health.

Everyone, especially people with heart or lung disease (including asthma), older adults, and children, should limit time spent outdoors, and avoid outdoor exercise when high concentrations of dust and particles are in the air.

If you have symptoms that may be related to exposure to ash particles, contact your health care provider. Symptoms are; repeated coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest tightness or pain, palpitations, nausea or unusual fatigue or lightheadedness.

Ash and soot particles may be stirred up into the air by winds. All residents are urged to avoid stirring particles into the air when cleaning up ash and soot, and especially to avoid using leaf blowers (and to ask landscaping services to avoid using leaf blowers).

For more information on smoke and ash and our health see www.OurAir.org/sbc/smoke-health.htm, and for recorded advisory updates, call 805-961-8802.

An Air Quality Watch is issued when there is potential for poor air quality in some areas of the county.

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Air Pollution Control District
San Luis Obispo County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 3, 2013

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AIR QUALITY ALERT

DETERIORATING AIR QUALITY DUE TO FIRE IMPACTS

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA, – The San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Air Pollution Control District and Health Department informs individuals that an air quality alert has been issued due to the potential impacts from the wild land fires in SLO County and those that are also burning in northern and southern California.

Due to changing winds and weather conditions, it is difficult to predict which areas of the county may be most affected by smoke from the fire. If you smell smoke, County officials urge that you take precautions to reduce the harmful health effects by limiting outdoor activities. These precautions are especially important for children, the elderly and people with respiratory and heart conditions.

County agencies urge residents to use common sense and take precautions to reduce the harmful health effects associated with smoke exposure. When you can see or smell the smoke in your surroundings, officials recommend you avoid strenuous outdoor activity and remain indoors as much as possible.

The District will continue to closely monitor smoke impacts and air quality in San Luis Obispo County. The AQI focuses on health effects individuals may experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air. The AQI is available to the public via the APCD website www.slocleanair.org, email, pager messages and text messages. Sign up to receive the daily air quality forecast via email, pager or text message by subscribing online at www.enviroflash.info/

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Monterey
County
Health
Department

Health Advisory

December 19, 2013

From: Edward Moreno, MD, MPH
Health Officer
Monterey County Health Department
Control District
831-755-4639

Richard Stedman
Air Pollution Control Officer
Monterey County Unified Air Pollution
831-647-9411

Health Advisory Remains in Effect as Air Quality Improves

Changes in the wind patterns combined with improved containment of the Pfeiffer Fire near Big Sur is contributing to improved air quality in the immediate area and neighboring regions. The Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District continues to monitor air in the Big Sur area with mobile air monitoring equipment. Today's air quality forecast for the Big Sur Area is Good.

The Forecast for the Big Sur area through December 23rd is for Good to Moderate air quality. Today's air quality forecast for the Peninsula is Good. The Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District and the Monterey County Health Department remind residents that a health advisory remains in effect for people living in areas affected by smoke from the Pfeiffer Fire. This health advisory is in effect indefinitely and may be revised as conditions warrant. Although air quality is expected to improve as firefighters achieve greater containment of the fire, smoke conditions may vary depending on the wind direction and the weather.

The Air Pollution Control District and Health Department offer the following recommendations for people affected by the smoke and ash.

- Everyone, especially people with heart or lung disease, (including asthma), older adults and children should limit time spent outdoors and limit prolonged or heavy exertion when the smell of smoke is present.
- People with chronic conditions such as heart or lung disease (including asthma), the elderly and children are at greatest risk of experiencing symptoms due to smoke exposure.



For Immediate Release:
January 21, 2014

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY:

Air quality is unhealthy for sensitive individuals in the
San Gabriel Valley areas

LOS ANGELES - Due to the Colby Fire burning in the Angeles National Forest above Glendora, today's air quality is unhealthy for sensitive individuals in several parts of Los Angeles County, according to the South Coast Air Quality Management District. The Los Angeles County Health Officer, Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, recommends that all individuals take precautions when outdoors in areas where there may be visible smoke or an odor of smoke.

Air quality is unhealthy for **sensitive** individuals, in the following areas:

- San Gabriel Valley

"In all areas of visible smoke or where there is an odor of smoke, all individuals are urged to be cautious and to avoid unnecessary outdoor activities. We are also advising schools that are in session in smoke-impacted areas to suspend outside physical activities in these areas, including physical education and after-school sports, until conditions improve," said Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH, Director of Public Health and Health Officer.

Throughout Los Angeles County, sensitive individuals, such as those with heart disease, asthma or other respiratory disease, should follow these recommendations and stay indoors as much as possible even in areas where smoke, soot, or ash cannot be seen or there is no odor of smoke.

"It is difficult to tell where ash or soot from a wildfire will go, or how winds will affect the level of dust particles in the air, so we ask all individuals to be aware of their immediate environment and how it might affect their health," said Dr. Fielding.

People can participate in indoor sports or other strenuous activity in areas with visible smoke, soot, or ash, provided the indoor location has air conditioning that does not draw air from the outside and it has closed windows and doors to protect the cleanliness of indoor air. If not, it is recommended that all individuals follow these guidelines as if they were outside.

Non-school related sports organizations, such as Little Leagues, for children and adults are advised to cancel outdoor practices in areas where there is visible smoke, soot, or ash, or where there is an odor of smoke. This also applies to other recreational outdoor activity, such as hikes or picnics, in these areas.

The following recommendations will help you protect yourself and your family from harmful effects of bad air quality:



- If you see or smell smoke, or see a lot of particles and ash in the air, avoid unnecessary outdoor activity to limit your exposure to harmful air. This is especially important for those with heart or lung disease (including asthma), the elderly and children.
- If outdoor air is bad, try to keep indoor air as clean as possible by keeping windows and doors closed. Air conditioners that re-circulate air within the home can help filter out harmful particles.
- Avoid using air conditioning units that only draw in air from the outside or that do not have a re-circulating option, such as wall-unit air conditioners. Residents should check the filters on their air conditioners and replace them regularly. Indoor air filtration devices with HEPA filters can further reduce the level of particles that circulate indoors.
- If it is too hot during the day to keep the doors or windows closed and you do not have an air conditioning unit that re-circulates indoor air, consider going to an air conditioned public place, such as a library or shopping center, to stay cool and to protect yourself from harmful air.
- Do not use fireplaces (either wood burning or gas), candles, and vacuums. Use damp cloths to clean dusty indoor surfaces. Do not smoke.
- If you have symptoms of lung or heart disease that may be related to smoke exposure, including severe coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest tightness or pain, palpitations, nausea or unusual fatigue or lightheadedness, contact your doctor immediately or go to an urgent care center.

When smoke is heavy for a prolonged period of time, fine particles can build up indoors even though you may not be able to see them. Wearing a mask may prevent exposures to large particles. However, most masks do not prevent exposure to fine particles and toxic gases, which may be more dangerous to your health.

The Department of Public Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of the nearly 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health. Public Health comprises nearly 4,000 employees and has an annual budget exceeding \$750 million. To learn more about Public Health and the work we do please visit <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov>, visit our YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/lapublichealth>, find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/lapublichealth>, or follow us on Twitter: @LAPublicHealth.

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Smokey conditions can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and air passages, which can be hazardous in young children, the elderly, individuals with heart conditions or chronic lung disease such as asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory conditions.

In spite of improvements in local air quality over the past few days, Lake County Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Tait advises area residents to be cautious in resuming normal activities. "Variable weather conditions and ongoing fire activity may result in localized areas of reduced air quality, which could still pose health risks to people with underlying health conditions. Since we can't always predict when and where 'pockets' of poorer air quality may occur, it is prudent to be careful until conditions stabilize."

Individuals with asthma, bronchitis, emphysema and other lung or heart diseases should carefully adhere to their medical treatment plans and maintain at least a five-day supply of prescribed medications. They should limit outdoor activity and unnecessary physical exertion. Air conditioning that recirculates indoor air should be used, when available. Drinking plenty of water to avoid drying of the airways is recommended, unless restricted for medical reasons.

Dust masks are not protective against the most harmful pollutants caused by wildfire smoke that drifts to nearby areas. They are useful in filtering out the ash and larger particles that are encountered in burn areas and should be considered when recovering property or cleaning areas that have burned. Air purifying respirators, such as N-95 filtering face pieces, may be effective in reducing harmful particulate matter, but also increase the work of breathing, can lead to physiologic stress, and are not recommended as a general protective measure. Their use should be limited to individual circumstances requiring additional protection

(<http://bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov/EPO/BeInformed/NaturalDisasters/Wildfires/CleanupFireAsh.htm>), preferably in personnel trained and familiar with the proper fitting and use of these devices.