

# Potential Wildfire Smoke Public Health Legislation

Legislative Committee Meeting  
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## Review

- The October 2017 wildfires in Sonoma and Napa counties, the November 2018 Camp Fire in Butte County and fires outside the state have had major air quality impacts in the Bay Area.
- The smoke impact in the Bay Area reached unprecedented unhealthy levels and the Bay Area Air Quality Management (Air District), provided support via air quality and smoke information, monitoring and N95 masks.
- Recurring and unprecedented wildfires throughout California have prompted a discussion on the Air District's role in wildfires.
- Staff has been developing an Air District program for wildfire preparation, prevention, and response.



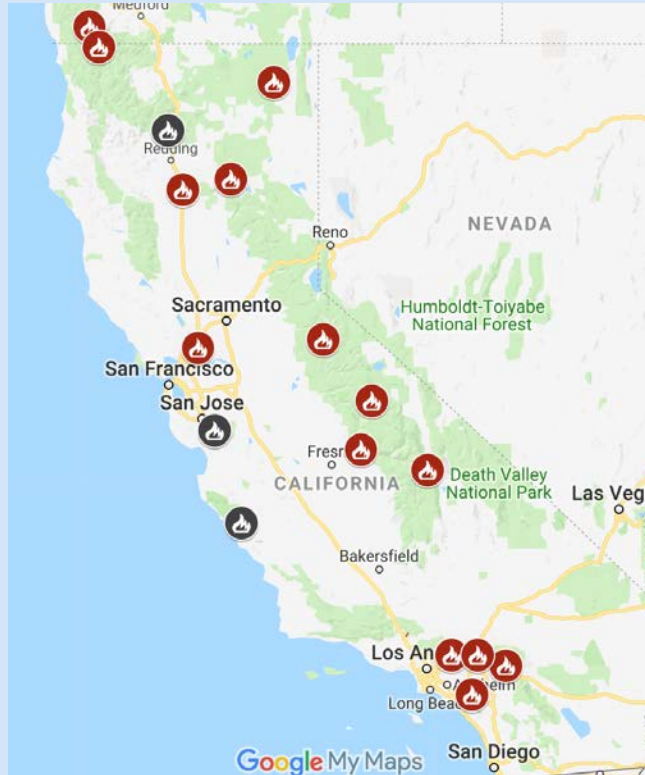
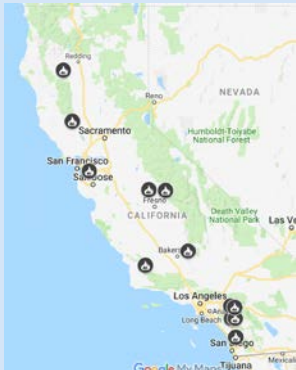
# Summer 2018 California Fires



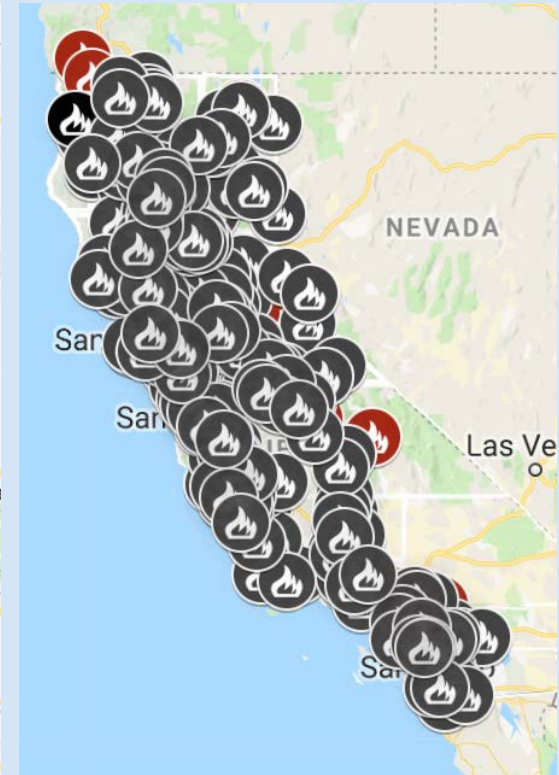
August 2018



September 2018



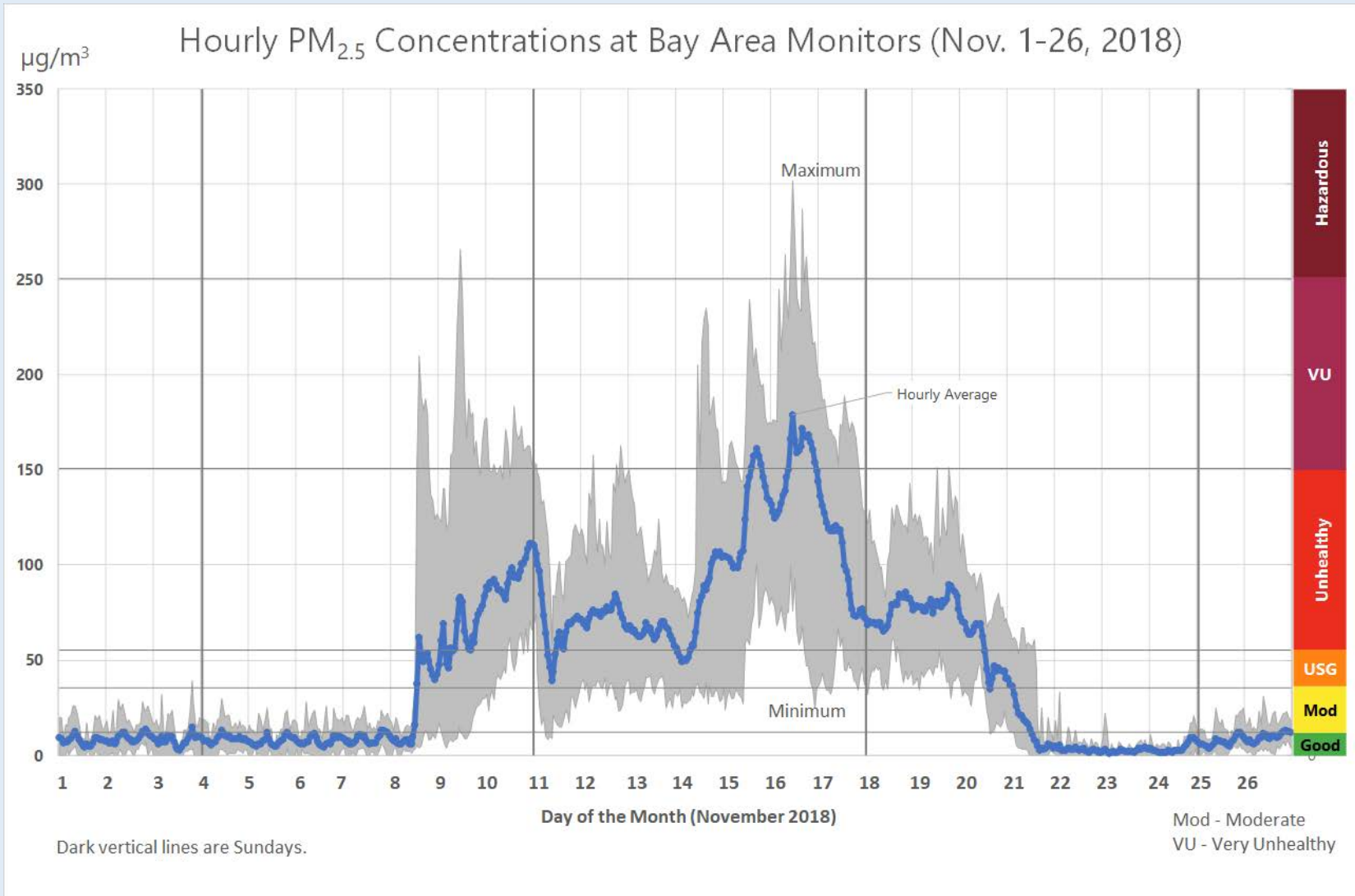
Active CalFire Incidents 2018



Statewide Incidents Summer 2018



# PM<sub>2.5</sub> Concentrations





# Wildfire Air Quality Response Program

**Purpose:** Develop a comprehensive, multi-faceted Wildfire Air Quality Response Program intended to prepare, prevent and respond to future wildfires, and to ensure health-protective measures and strategies are in place during air pollution emergencies.

- At the January 16, 2019 Board of Directors Retreat, staff will present a comprehensive strategy and timeline.



## Program Strategy

- Amend Regulation 5: Open Burning to:
  - Encourage burning for wildfire prevention and control while balancing air quality needs.
- Create a new Wildfire Episode Response Regulation to:
  - establish control and advisory procedures when specific levels of PM have been reached.
  - provide a reference repository for wildfire smoke monitoring, health effects guidance, action documents, and an associated communications plan.
- Form partnerships with fire, public health officials, cities and counties to develop and implement response plans.
- Establish clean air shelters throughout our nine-county jurisdiction.



## Legislative Strategy

**Goal:** Create legislation that would direct the Air District, working with cities and counties, to create clean air shelters throughout our nine-county jurisdiction.

- Work with cities, counties, and public health agencies to identify publicly accessible locations and build/retrofit costs, if necessary. Examples include schools, hospitals community and senior centers, and libraries.
- Develop short and long term plans to efficiently create clean air shelters while balancing need and equity issues.
- Develop a process to distribute funding and provide guidance to build/retrofit clean air shelters with high efficiency filtration and air quality monitoring.



## Costs

Costs per location will vary based on the size of the existing central air system and its existing level of filtration. In general, the smaller the pores in the filters, the greater the costs of a retrofit.

- Experience in the South Coast AQMD with school retrofits (high volume capacity) averaged about \$150,000 per site.
- In 2010, an Air District funded pilot project (\$300,000) installed improved central filtration and classroom wall units in 5 Bayview Hunters Point Schools.
- Using South Coast experience and the total number of Bay Area high schools as a proxy for the serviced population, the funding need would be over \$40 million for full implementation.





# Questions