



NEWS RELEASE

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Air quality advisory for smoke in the Bay Area through Sunday

Smoke impacts expected from multiple brush fires in Contra Costa County

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing an air quality advisory for smoke for the entire Bay Area region through Sunday, August 4.

Beginning early Saturday morning, the Bay Area will experience air quality impacts as smoke from the Marsh Complex Fire in Contra Costa County off of Marsh Creek road filters into the region. Impacts from the brush fires are expected in east Contra Costa County including Antioch, Oakley, Brentwood, Discovery Bay and Pittsburg. Since this morning, the fire has burned nearly 500 acres.

Onshore winds are expected to be light and are expected to become stronger throughout the day. Satellite imagery shows that smoke is being transported east and down into the San Joaquin Valley. Currently, impacts include smoky skies, smell of smoke and localized elevated particle pollution. The Air District will be closely monitoring air quality throughout the region for smoke impacts from this wildfire.

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 Bay Area residents impacted by the smoke are unable to keep windows and doors closed due to heat, it is recommended that they seek relief at a cleaner air cooling location such as a public library, shopping mall or movie theater. It is also recommended that Bay Area residents set 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://go.usa.gov/xUwyz>.

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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