



Air Pollution Control District  
San Luis Obispo County

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 6, 2018**

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**SLO County Air Pollution Control District**

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**BETTER BREATHER ALERT - SMOKE AND BLOWING DUST  
IMPACTING SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA,** – The San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Air Pollution Control District and County Health Department are advising the public that air quality in San Luis Obispo County is being impacted by smoke from wildfires (countywide) as well as blowing dust in the area of the Oceano Dunes/Nipomo Mesa area. As of 2 p.m. Monday, August 6, smoke impacts are the greatest in Eastern and Central San Luis Obispo County (including Paso Robles and Atascadero) and air quality is Moderate along the coast (including San Luis Obispo), coastal air quality could continue to deteriorate as the smoke plume spreads. Expect skies to be hazy and fine particulate (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and ozone concentrations to be higher than normal. Changing winds make it difficult to predict which areas of the county may be most affected as the week progresses. However, until the fires are put out, smoke will likely be intermittently present in our region.

County officials recommend you take precautions and use common sense to reduce the harmful health effects associated with particulate matter exposure. When it is obvious that smoke or dust is in the air, individuals should avoid strenuous outdoor activity and remain indoors as much as possible. These precautions are especially important for people with existing respiratory illness and heart conditions, as they are particularly vulnerable to the health effects of declining air quality. If smoke impacts increase, healthy people could be affected as well. If a cough, shortness of breath, wheezing, exhaustion, light-headedness or chest pain occurs, outdoor activity should be stopped immediately, and the affected person should seek medical attention. More information can be found at [slocleanair.org/air-quality/wildfire](http://slocleanair.org/air-quality/wildfire).

APCD and County officials will continue to closely monitor smoke impacts and air quality in San Luis Obispo County. By following the air quality index (AQI), the public can also monitor real-time air quality throughout SLO County. The AQI focuses on health effects individuals may experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air. The current and forecasted AQI is available via the APCD website: [slocleanair.org](http://slocleanair.org). Sign up to receive the daily AQI air quality forecast via email by subscribing online at [enviroflash.info](http://enviroflash.info), sign up for our AirAware text notifications and check our Twitter feed for the latest updates (@slocleanair).

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