



Air Pollution Control District
San Luis Obispo County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 18, 2017

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SLO County Air Pollution Control District**

**SMOKE IMPACTING SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
SLO COUNTY APCD EXTENDING VOLUNTARY “DON’T LIGHT TONIGHT” ADVISORY
THROUGH DECEMBER 19, 2017**

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA, – The San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Air Pollution Control District continues to assess air quality, to identify any potential health impacts and to inform the community about safeguarding individual health. Due to the continued smoke impacts from the wildfires in Ventura and Santa Barbara County, the SLO County APCD is extending its voluntary “Don’t Light Tonight” advisory for December 12-18, 2017 an additional day, **through December 19, 2017**. The APCD is asking residents to refrain from burning wood or using their wood stoves or fireplaces unless they are being used as a primary source of heat.

Weather conditions and elevated use of fireplaces and wood stoves further exacerbates the levels of fine particulate matter in the air and traps wood smoke closer to the ground and the air people breathe. With the already smoky conditions due to the wildfires in Ventura and Santa Barbara County, fireplace use is not recommended.

Fine particulates from wood smoke can cause breathing problems for many residents. If you smell smoke or see ash fall, officials recommend you take precautions and use common sense to reduce your exposure to smoke. When it is obvious that smoke is in the air, all adults and children should:

- Avoid strenuous outdoor activity
- Remain indoors as much as possible
- Set any heating/air conditioning/ventilation systems to recirculate

These precautions are especially important for children, older adults, and people with existing respiratory illness and heart conditions, as they are particularly vulnerable to the health effects of poor air quality.

Stay updated on air quality in your area:

- Following the air quality index (AQI) to see real-time air quality throughout SLO County. The current and forecasted AQI is available via the APCD website: slocleanair.org
- Follow the SLO County APCD Twitter (@SLOCleanAir), Facebook (@SLOCountyAPCD) or Instagram (@SLOCleanAir) feeds for the latest updates.

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