



Air Pollution Control District
San Luis Obispo County

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SLO County Air Pollution Control District**

AIR QUALITY ALERT - SMOKE IMPACTING SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA, – The San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Air Pollution Control District is informing individuals that air quality in San Luis Obispo County is currently being impacted by smoke from fires burning throughout California. Due to these impacts, the SLO County APCD is issuing an Air Quality Alert.

If you smell smoke or see ash fall, take precautions and use common sense to reduce the harmful health effects associated with smoke exposure. When smoke in the air is obvious, individuals should avoid strenuous outdoor activity and remain indoors as much as possible. These precautions are particularly important for people with existing respiratory illness and heart conditions and for the very young and the elderly as they are most vulnerable to the health effects of declining air quality.

Levels of particulates in the smoke may be high enough in some areas that even healthy people could be affected. 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.

To clean ash, please do the following: use a damp cloth and spray areas lightly with water, directing ash-filled water to ground areas, and away from the runoff system - do not use leaf blowers; take your vehicle to the car wash; wash toys that have been outside in the ash; and clean ash off pets. Due to its corrosive nature, avoid skin contact with the ash by wearing gloves and long-sleeved shirts. Please note, if you have existing heart or lung conditions, avoid doing ash clean-up yourself or anything else that stirs the particles back up into the air. In addition, do not allow children to play in the ash.

APCD 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 AQI is available via the APCD website: <http://www.slocleanair.org/air-quality/air-forecasting-map.php>. Sign up to receive the daily air quality forecast via email by subscribing online at enviroflash.info. You can also sign up for AirAware Alerts by visiting <http://www.slocleanair.org/air-quality-alerts.php>.