

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Air Quality Watch Issued for Northern Santa Barbara County
Smoke from Coon Creek Fire in San Luis Obispo County May Impact Some Areas**

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department and the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District today issued an Air Quality Watch for Northern Santa Barbara County to be in effect as long as conditions warrant. Air quality may be poor in some areas due to smoke from the Coon Creek Fire currently burning in San Luis Obispo County in the Montaña de Oro State Park.

Smoke from the fire affected Northern Santa Barbara County yesterday in the evening, and the air monitoring stations in Santa Maria and Lompoc recorded elevated levels of particles. Weather conditions may be similar today in the late afternoon and early evening, and winds could move smoke into Northern Santa Barbara County, potentially affecting the areas of Guadalupe, Lompoc, Orcutt, and Santa Maria in particular.

If you see or smell smoke in the air where you are, be cautious and use common sense to protect your family's health. Everyone, especially people with heart or lung disease (including asthma), older adults, and children, should limit time spent outdoors, and avoid outdoor exercise when high concentrations of dust and particles are in the air. If you have symptoms of lung or heart disease that may be related to exposure to particles, including repeated coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest tightness or pain, palpitations, nausea or unusual fatigue or lightheadedness, contact your health care provider.

Levels of smoke and particles will depend on changes in winds, and the containment of the fire. This Air Quality Watch is in effect for as long as conditions warrant.

For more information see www.OurAir.org, and for recorded advisory updates, call 805-961-8802. <http://www.sbcapcd.org/111312rel.htm>

An Air Quality Watch is issued when there is potential for poor air quality in some areas of the county.

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