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AIR QUALITY ALERT
SMOKE IMPACTS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA, – The San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and County Public Health Department are upgrading the prior press release to an air quality alert. APCD monitoring data indicates poor air quality in north and central San Luis Obispo County due to smoke from the Lockheed fire near Santa Cruz. The northwest winds carrying the smoke and ash to our area are expected to continue over the next few days. A change to southerly winds is expected near the middle of next week, which will likely bring additional smoke and ash to our area from the rapidly expanding La Brea Fire east of Santa Maria in the San Rafael Wilderness. Changing winds and weather conditions make it difficult to predict which areas of the county may be most affected. However, until the fires are put out, smoke and ash will likely be intermittently present in our region for what may be days to come.

If you smell smoke, County officials urge you to take precautions and use common sense to reduce harmful health effects by limiting outdoor activities. These precautions are especially important for children, the elderly and people with respiratory and heart conditions. If a cough, shortness of breath, wheezing, exhaustion, light-headedness or chest pain occurs, outdoor activity should be stopped and the affected person should seek medical attention. Residents are also cautioned to avoid stirring up particles during cleanup of soot and ash.

County officials will continue to closely monitor smoke impacts and air quality throughout our region. The public can also monitor real-time air quality throughout the county by following the air quality index (AQI). The AQI focuses on health effects individuals may experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air and is available to the public via the APCD website www.slocleanair.org, email, pager messages and text messages. Sign up to receive the daily air quality forecast via email, page or text message by subscribing online at www.enviroflash.info/

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