



---

# Eastern Kern

Air Pollution Control District

---

Glen E. Stephens, P.E.  
Air Pollution Control Officer

## News Release

7-5-2017

For Immediate Release

**TO: Local News, Health and Weather sections**

### Wildfire Smoke Health Advisory

Kern River Valley residents are advised to restrict outdoor activities in smoke impacted areas

Smoke from the Schaeffer Fire north of Lake Isabella in the Schaeffer Mountain area is impacting communities in the Kern River Valley and Ridgecrest areas. The entire Kern River Valley has been affected by the smoke, but the communities of Alta Sierra, Bodfish, Canebroke, Kernville, Lake Isabella, Mountain Mesa, Onyx, Weldon, and Wofford Heights are expected to be the most heavily impacted. However, effects of the fire have been seen in Ridgecrest.

The Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District (District) is recommending that children, older individuals, and those with pre-existing heart and lung problems should avoid outdoor activity, whenever they can smell or see smoke in their immediate area. Effects can be as mild as a headache; eye, nose or throat irritation; or as serious as triggered asthma episodes or stresses on weakened cardiovascular systems. Adverse health impacts may also be seen in normally healthy individuals, if they are engaged in strenuous outdoor activities during periods of exposure to ground-level smoke.

Sensitive individuals should stay indoors in an air conditioned building with windows and doors closed whenever there is smoke at ground level in their area. Most residential central air conditioning systems re-circulate the air inside the home, so these can be operated normally; however, many commercial buildings and a small percentage of newer homes have mechanical ventilation systems that actively bring in outdoor air, and these should be set to a "re-circulate" mode, if available. If you are using a window air conditioner it should also be set to the "re-circulate" mode. Water or swamp coolers remove only a small portion of the smoke particles from the air that they bring in and provide little protection from the smoke. The District is recommending not use a swamp cooler that if there is smoke present in your area. Whole house fans should not be used until the threat of smoke impacts in your area is gone.

More information on the Schaeffer Fire can be found at the Fire Incident Information website: <https://inciweb.nwccg.gov/incident/5285/> .

###

*Administrative Office: 2700 "M" Street, Suite 302, Bakersfield, CA 93301-2370  
Phone (661) 862-5250 – Fax (661) 862-5251  
[www.kernair.org](http://www.kernair.org) – [ekapcd@co.kern.ca.us](mailto:ekapcd@co.kern.ca.us)*