



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### BUTTE COUNTY CAMP FIRE AIR QUALITY IMPACTS

Smoke from the Butte County Camp Fire is currently impacting air quality in Santa Cruz County. Smoke is always unhealthy, and contains fine particles which can pose health risks to the elderly, very young children and those with heart and lung disease.

The Monterey Bay Air Resources District tracks real-time air quality at <http://mbard.org/air-quality>. Air quality in parts of Santa Cruz County is currently unhealthy for sensitive groups. If you are being impacted by smoke, consider the following guidelines:

- When the concentration of smoke has reached unhealthy levels, residents should limit outdoor activity and avoid breathing smoke. Check with your health care provider to see if you should leave the area.
- Use common sense. When the air is smoky, outdoor exercise is not advised for children or adults.
- Help lower particle levels inside your home by limiting the use of wood fireplaces, gas logs, gas stoves – even candles. Avoid vacuuming as that stirs up fine particles. Avoid smoking.

On Sept. 11, CAL FIRE San Mateo-Santa Cruz banned all outdoor burning. As evidenced by the Camp, Woolsey and Hill fires, as well as the recent Rincon and Pogonip fires in Santa Cruz County, fire poses an extreme danger to life, property and natural resources.

All schools and county parks and facilities remain open.

For those wishing to help fire victims, please do not attempt to deliver goods to fire-impacted areas. The North Valley Community Foundation is currently accepting donations for victims of the Camp Fire. Visit [www.nvcf.org](http://www.nvcf.org) to learn more.