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Sac Metro Air District Reminds Residents Fireworks Emit Harmful Emissions

Although major firework shows have been cancelled in Sacramento County, the Sac Metro Air Districts reminds residents that emissions from personal fireworks can jeopardize public health.

Emissions from these fireworks can be especially harmful since they are set off at ground-level with spectators close by and emit high levels of particulates in the form of smoke, lead and other toxic metals such as manganese, chromium and nickel. Those particularly susceptible include the elderly, children and anyone with respiratory or pulmonary issues.

Short-term exposure to particulate pollution can:

- Aggravate lung disease causing asthma attacks and acute bronchitis
- Increase susceptibility to respiratory infections
- Cause heart attacks and arrhythmias in people with heart disease

Even if you are healthy, you may experience temporary symptoms, such as:

- Irritation of the eyes, nose and throat
- Coughing
- Chest tightness
- Shortness of breath

Historically in Sacramento County, hourly pollution concentrations on Independence Day are more than 10 times higher than pre-firework concentrations.

For current air quality conditions and forecasts visit SpareTheAir.com or download the Sacramento Region Air Quality app.