



# SAN BENITO COUNTY

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

GAIL NEWEL, MD, MPH  
HEALTH OFFICER

JAMES A. RYDINGSWORD  
AGENCY DIRECTOR

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**  
*Healthy People in Healthy Communities*

## HEALTH ADVISORY

### UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY IN SAN BENITO COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 11, 2017

CONTACT: Sam Perez, Public Information Officer – 831.637.5367

The County of San Benito Public Health Department is advising residents to take precautions due to the visible smoke in the air. The current situation is a result of very unhealthy air quality from the wildfires in the North Bay and is causing unprecedented levels of air pollution throughout the Central Coast. Due to active fire areas and changing wind patterns, air quality could be impacted for many days to come.

Individuals most at risk for illness due to smoke in the air include children, seniors and those with respiratory problems. These individuals should limit their exposure to smoky air by staying indoors as much as possible. Windows and doors should be kept closed to prevent indoor air from becoming dirty.

It is imperative that San Benito County residents protect their health. If residents see or smell smoke in their area, they should avoid outdoor activity including exercise. It is recommended that parents and school administrators check air quality readings before allowing children to practice outdoor sports while air quality is unhealthy.

If possible, stay indoors with windows and doors closed and air conditioning units on recirculate to avoid drawing outside air into buildings. Children, the elderly and those with respiratory conditions such as asthma, COPD, emphysema and heart disease are most impacted. Schools should limit outdoor play and recess periods to when the air is clear.

Because of the serious air quality conditions we are asking residents to avoid adding additional air pollution activities such as wood burning, lawn mowing, leaf blowing, driving, and barbecuing.

Check these sites for real-time air quality reading:

<https://go.usa.gov/xnxhb> or <http://mbard.org/air-quality> or <http://www.cdc.gov/features/wildfires>

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Health Alert: Warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**PUBLIC HEALTH  
SERVICES**  
439 Fourth Street  
Hollister, CA 95023  
831-637-5367

**MEDICAL THERAPY  
UNIT**  
761 South Street  
Hollister, CA 95023  
831-637-1989

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH SERVICES**  
351 Tres Pinos Road, Suite C-1  
Hollister, CA 95023  
831-636-4035

**HEALTH EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS**  
439 Fourth Street  
Hollister, CA 95023  
831-637-5367