NEWS from DHR

B. J. Walker, Commissioner

Georgia Department of Human Resources • Office of Communications • Dena J. Smith, Press Secretary
Two Peachtree Street, NW • Suite 29.426 • Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142
Phone: 404-656-4937 • Fax: 404-651-6815

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For information, contact:
Taka Wiley; 404-657-1385
tlwiley@dhr.state.ga.us

WILDFIRE SMOKE REACHES THE CITY OF ATLANTA

ATLANTA (GA) – Metro Atlanta residents woke up this morning to hazy skies and the smell of smoke as remnants from the South Georgia wildfires reached the city. A large tire burning fire in Butts County also contributed to this morning's cloudy skies and distinct smell. The Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health advises individuals within the metro Atlanta area to take precautions against health problems related to smoky conditions.

"Although we have a small amount of smoke from the South Georgia wildfires here in the Atlanta area, it is important that individuals, especially those with chronic respiratory illnesses, take preventive measures to protect their health," said Dr. Stuart Brown, director of the Division of Public Health.

The Division of Public Health recommends that persons with asthma and other chronic pulmonary diseases stay indoors with windows and doors shut. Individuals are also advised to use the recycle or re-circulate mode on home and car air conditioners. Preventive measures such as limiting exposure to activities which place extra demands on the lungs and heart, including exercising in these conditions, are the best ways individuals can protect themselves and their families. Individuals with special conditions and health care needs, such as young children and older adults, are at a greater health risk.

How to Tell if Smoke Is Affecting You:

- Coughing
- A scratchy throat
- Irritated sinuses
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Headaches
- Stinging eyes
- Severe asthma

If you experience a worsening of chronic health conditions such as asthma, emphysema, bronchitis or a heart condition, please consult your primary care physician or visit your local health facility.

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