Health officials urge residents near Holy Fire to limit outdoor activities because of dust and ash

The strong Santa Ana winds that have battered the region have whipped up ash and dust in the area near the Holy Fire in Riverside County, and health officials are urging residents to limit their outdoor activities.

The fire that started near the Riverside-Orange county line earlier this year burned for several days and left behind tens of thousands of ash-covered acres of wilderness. The winds that have blown for several days have left portions of the county west of Interstate 15 covered in a layer of brown ash and dust.

Riverside County Public Health Officer Dr. Cameron Kaiser is urging residents in this area to limit their outdoor activities, or stay indoors when possible.
“Unhealthy air has health risks, and the winds can change air quality in a hurry,” Kaiser said. “Even healthy individuals should reduce activity until the dust settles, but especially people with asthma and other health problems need to take particular care.”

Kaiser said the very young and seniors can also be impacted by breathing the ash and dust. Kaiser recommended that residents in the impacted areas closed their windows and use air conditioners to stay cool.