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May 11, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recommendations for Ash Clean-Up

The Jesusita Fire created a significant amount of ash throughout the Santa Barbara, Montecito and Goleta area. While some ash continues to fall, the volume of new ash has decreased substantially. While exposure to ash can cause irritation to the nose, throat and eyes, short-term exposure to ash generally does not constitute a significant health hazard for most people.

Residents are advised to take the following precautions when cleaning up ashes from the fire:

- ◆ Use a well-fitting dust particulate mask when cleaning up ashes. A mask rated N95 or P100 (available at paint and hardware stores) will be more effective than simpler dust or surgical masks in blocking particles from ash. If you do not have a mask, a damp cloth may be used to cover your nose and mouth.
- ◆ Individuals with asthma or other lung conditions should not be involved in ash clean-up.
- ◆ Protective glasses or goggles will help keep ash disturbed during clean-up out of your eyes. This is especially important for people wearing contact lenses.
- ◆ Ashes in piles or clusters are best cleaned-up with a broom and dust pan.
- ◆ When sweeping ashes, use short, gentle strokes to keep airborne dust to a minimum.
- ◆ Deposit ashes in a sealed trash can to prevent wind from scattering them.
- ◆ A fine coating of ash may best be cleaned with wet mopping or water sprayed from a hose. Use the minimum amount of water needed to clean the surface, as water is in short supply. Direct any water spray towards garden and lawn areas. Avoid washing ash into the street and storm drains.
- ◆ Do not use leaf blowers or shop vacuums as they raise a significant amount of dust which may be inhaled, and will resettle and require further clean-up.
- ◆ Minimize ash contact with bare skin by wearing long-sleeved clothing and pants.
- ◆ Rinse fruits and vegetables from home gardens before eating them.
- ◆ Rinse children's toys and play equipment that have been exposed to ash before children play with them.
- ◆ Clean ash off pets.

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