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Riverside County
NEWS RELEASE

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RECOMMENDS SCHOOLS TAKE PRECAUTIONS AFTER MECCA FIRE

A wildland fire burned through grape stakes at the intersection of Avenue 64 and Dale Kiler Road in Mecca on Thanksgiving Day.

Winds were mild causing the smoke and ash to rise straight up rather than across the valley.

The burned graped stakes may contain chemicals in the ash such as arsenic.

Environmental Health staff have taken wipe samples of surfaces, results won't be available until next week.

Out of an abundance of caution, stemming from potential ash fallout, Environmental Health is recommending that two local schools and nearby residents clean outdoor tables, benches, playground equipment and pet dishes.

The two schools affected are:

Mecca Elementary
65250 Coahuilla
Mecca, CA

and

Saul Martinez Elementary
65705 Johnson St.
Mecca, CA

Washing with soap and water then rinsing with plain water should suffice in removing any ash.

Residents may call our Indio office Hazardous Material Branch at 760-863-8976 (Monday-Friday, 7am-5:30pm). After hours number is 951-782-2968.

www.rivcoeh.org.