

10 March 2017

## Suez Resource Recovery Park fire at Muir Rd Chullora

South western Sydney residents are being advised to take precautionary measures as the clean-up of a fire at Suez Resource Recovery Park, on Muir Rd in Chullora commences.

The fire is currently contained and most people exposed to smoke and other pollutants should experience mild or no symptoms but these can vary from person to person, South Western Sydney Local Health District Acting Public Health Director, Dr Madhumati Chatterji said.

NSW Environment Protection Authority has established air monitoring devices around the site for ongoing monitoring.

Smoke and dust particles emitted by fires can affect people with chronic lung conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease more seriously.

“You can take certain precautions to improve your well-being by staying indoors with windows and doors closed, switch on air-conditioning in your home to help filter the air and avoid vigorous exercise in the affected area,” Dr Chatterji said.

“The signs and symptoms of smoke inhalation depend on the source of the smoke and how long you were exposed to the smoke.

“If you have been exposed to smoke and are experiencing severe coughing, shortness of breath, eye irritation, nausea or headache then you should contact your GP or present to your closest emergency department,” she said.

Dr Chatterji urged people to be cautious and follow some simple steps to avoid inhaling smoke or smoke particles:

- Most people who are exposed to brief periods of smoke experience mild or no symptoms and recover quickly without long term effects.
- People with chronic respiratory conditions like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are more likely to develop symptoms. It is important they monitor their symptoms, follow their management plan, and seek medical advice if symptoms don't improve. Symptoms may include shortness of breath, coughing, or wheezing.
- In smoky conditions, people can reduce their exposure to the smoke by staying indoors, with doors and windows closed and, if available, using air-conditioned as the air filtration systems can help to reduce smoke particles in the air.
- Members of the public who have further health concerns about the incident should contact NSW Health's Local Area Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055.