



St. Mary's County Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

www.smchd.org

William B. Icenhower, MD, MPH, Health Officer
21580 Peabody Street,
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Contact: Leslie Payne,
Public Information Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Telephone: 301-475-4318

Fax: 301-475-4350

E-mail: paynel@smhd.com

SMOKE ADVISORY

(LEONARDTOWN, MD) April 24, 2007 – The St. Mary's County Health Department reports that reduced visibility is possible on a portion of Bay Forest Road near Rt. 235 from a fire that continues to burn in a mulch pile at 18864 Cully Lane. Residents of Bay Forest Rd., their guests, and visitors to nearby Elms Beach Park are advised to be alert to changing road conditions.

“The material that is burning is natural material located in a mulch pit, and the smoldering nature of the fire is creating the smoky conditions. The fire is under control and there is no fire hazard to surrounding property. “There may, however, be smoke and odor for a week or more until the fire burns out,” said Vic Krasnokutsky, Environmental Health Services Division supervisor at the health department. “In the meantime, we want to advise the community to take precautions to protect their health.”

Residents should keep their windows and doors closed. People with respiratory problems should avoid going outside when smoke is present.

According to health officials, the fire was discovered in a mulch pile approximately located in an old gravel pit. The St. Mary's County Fire Chief, inspectors from the health department, as well as the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service and Maryland Department of the Environment have all

(more)

Smoke Advisory, p. 2

responded to the smoldering fire. Local officials have agreed that the course of action with the least environmental impact is to let the fire burn itself out.

There have been no injuries reported.

If you have health concerns related to smoke from this fire, please consult your family physician or contact the St. Mary's County Health Department at 301-475-4330.

###