It’s likely most of us in the Greater Bay Area vividly remember the orange skies from wildfire smoke in September 2020 with its sharp smell and taste. A component of wildfire smoke is fine particulate matter (aka PM2.5), which can penetrate deep into our lungs. It is the most deadly form of air pollution in the U.S., according to Michael Wara of Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment. Exposure leads to greater potential for heart and lung disease as well as cancer.

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