

Haze: Johan Setia close to hitting 'very unhealthy' level

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KLANG: The Air Pollutant Index (API) in Johan Setia, here, hit 198 as at 5pm today, three points away from breaching the very unhealthy level.

The current reading, categorised as unhealthy, spiked from this morning, according to the Air Pollution Index Malaysia (APIMS) website.

It is now close to breaching the very unhealthy air quality level of 201 and above.

Klang Fire and Rescue Department chief Samsol Maarif Saibani said there were no reported cases of fires in Johan Setia so far.

"This is although the readings have increased by the hour as recorded in the APIMS website.

"In our patrol rounds with the Department of Environment, we found the area to be enveloped with haze but there were no fire incidents.

"We attribute this to the transboundary haze pollution," he told the *New Straits Times* today.

He said integrated checks last night in areas such as Jalan Kebun, Bandar Putera 2, Jalan Johan Setia 1 and Jalan Telekom found no open burning activities.

Samsol also advised farmers and the public to refrain from small scale open burnings as their action can compound the deteriorating haze situation.

"Smokers are urged to stop cigarette littering. A lit cigarette thrown into grass areas can spark fires and these can lead to huge bushfires.

"The public might want to consider carpooling to avoid further air pollution for now," said Samsol.

As at 5pm, the reading for Kuala Selangor was 137; 145 in Klang, 138 in Banting, 152 in Shah Alam and 150 in Petaling Jaya.