

# Right under our noses

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## Polluted air around Bukit Gasing due to open burning in Old Klang Road

By VINCENT TAN

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INITIALLY, Gasing Heights resident Julian Tataru, 50, attributed the smoke and dust choking Bukit Gasing to haze brought about by open burning in Sumatra.

However, he and his wife Emily Tataru later found out that the columns of smoke were billowing out from two spots, both in the vicinity of Old Klang Road.

"Open burning incidences are quite common up to three times a week.

"Usually the deed is done between 4pm and 5pm and go on

until late into the night," said Emily.

The couple said the smoke was thick.

"Bukit Gasing is behind our house and the wind blows the smoke to Gasing Heights and other areas in Section 5 along Jalan Templer and Old Klang Road.

"When this happens, the air is filled with the smell of burnt plastic, which I think is what the culprits are burning," he said.

He said the Fire and Rescue Services Department from Taman Seri Sentosa was called in twice to prevent the fires from spreading.

"The most recent case was on Monday," he said.

Tataru's neighbour, Ivy Lee said she was worried about the potential health hazards on her young children.

"Initially, I too thought it was the haze but I could see dust particles in my unit and my neighbours alerted me to the open burnings," said Lee.

A lorry-rental business owner, who wished to be known as SK, said coconut husks and bottles were regularly burnt at a site between Old Klang Road and Taman Seri Sentosa.

"I also live in the vicinity of Bukit Gasing. Sometimes I have to close all the windows to keep the smoke out," he said.



**Health hazard:** This picture taken by Julian showing two open burnings taking place.