



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

News Release

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For Immediate Release

TO:

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Winds prompt health warning

Air District cautions residents to limit exposure to wind-blown dust

Gusty winds in the San Joaquin Valley have prompted local air-pollution officials to extend a health cautionary statement through Thursday evening.

Winds in the San Joaquin Valley may produce areas of localized blowing dust throughout the Valley. Blowing dust can result in unhealthy concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller, or PM10.

"The dry and windy conditions are causing blowing dust throughout the San Joaquin Valley," said Valley Air District Senior Air Quality Specialist Shawn Ferreria.

Exposure to dust and other particle pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, cause asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections.

People with heart or lung diseases should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of unhealthy air quality when dust is present. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion in affected areas. Everyone else should reduce prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and San Joaquin Valley air basin portions of Kern. For more information, visit <http://www.valleyair.org/> or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.