

News Release

For immediate release

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For: local news, weather and
assignment editors



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Gusty winds prompt Valley-wide caution *Blowing dust raises particulate levels*

Local air officials are issuing a health cautionary statement for blowing dust as a result of gusty winds throughout the Valley air basin today.

The health caution is in effect for **San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley portion of Kern County** through this evening. The winds are part of a low pressure system entering the Valley.

Wind-blown dust creates high concentrations of particulate matter (PM), which causes health problems, including aggravating lung disease, triggering asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and increasing the risk of respiratory infection.

District officials recommend protecting yourself if you are in an area of blowing dust.

Residents in areas of blowing dust are advised to use caution through Tuesday afternoon. People with heart or lung disease should follow their doctor's advice for dealing with episodes of unhealthy air quality. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged exposure, strenuous activity or heavy exertion.

For more information about the Valley Air District, call a regional office: in Fresno, 559-230-6000; in Bakersfield, 661-392-5500; and in Modesto, 209-557-6400.