

**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Valley Air District issues health caution for Fresno/Clovis;
Asks residents to not burn wood tonight**

Fresno, CA –The Valley Air District has recorded unhealthy levels of fine airborne particles (PM) in Fresno/Clovis metropolitan areas. This prompted Air Pollution Control Officer David L. Crow to issue a health caution for the Fresno/Clovis metropolitan areas through 3 p.m. Friday, January 31.

“There are localized pockets where smoke is creating unhealthy breathing conditions. We continue to urge residents to be aware of conditions in their area. If you can smell smoke you are most likely in an area where air quality is poor,” said Air District Meteorologist Evan Shipp.

Residents in the Fresno/Clovis areas should adhere to the following protective measures during the duration of the health caution.

- All residents are encouraged to avoid and/or limit strenuous outdoor physical activities that may increase the breathing rate.
- If possible, try to remain indoors until the episode has passed.
- Recirculate indoor air.
- Do not smoke, and avoid places where others are smoking.

(more)

Schools are encouraged to discontinue sustained rigorous outdoor exercise/games or practice for the duration of this caution.

Additionally, the Air District is asking residents in the Fresno/Clovis area to not exacerbate conditions created by the fire in southwest Fresno by using wood-burning fireplaces and stoves tonight. This "Please Don't Light Tonight" request does not affect residents in other parts of the Valley and those who use wood burning as their only source of heat.

PM is a mixture of pollutants, including microscopic pieces of soot, ash, salts, nitrates and smoke particles. Breathing the particles can reduce lung function, especially in children; aggravate heart and lung conditions such as asthma, emphysema and bronchitis; increase the risk of heart attacks; irritate throats and sinuses; and trigger headaches and allergies.

Please notify your audience of the prevailing air quality conditions and possible health effects. For the daily air quality forecast, residents may call 1-800-SMOG-INFO (766-4463). The information is updated daily at 4 p.m. for that evening and the following day.