

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 14, 2003

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**Valley Air District issues third cautionary advisory for Fresno/Clovis;
Asks residents to not burn wood tonight**

Fresno, CA –Levels of fine airborne particles are at unhealthy levels in areas of Fresno/Clovis. This prompted Air Pollution Control Officer David L. Crow to extend the cautionary advisory for the Fresno/Clovis metropolitan area to the third straight day. The fire in southwest Fresno that continues to burn and smolder led the Air District to extend the cautionary advisory at least through 3 p.m., Thursday, January 16.

Overall meteorological conditions have remained constant over the past 24 hours, but there has been a shift in wind direction and vertical pollutant dispersion has become slightly worse. "Data from monitoring sites indicates that wind directions are now more variable. This could change which regions are directly impacted by smoke from the fire," said Air District Meteorologist Evan Shipp.

"The monitors which register particulate matter (PM) data have not registered elevated readings since Monday morning," said Shipp. "However, this is because previous wind flow was directing smoke away from our monitors. We know 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 most likely are in an area where air quality is poor. The weather outlook for the next few days is for warmer temperatures aloft which will result in poorer smoke dispersion and more fire impact."

(more)

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

- 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.

Additionally, schools in Fresno and Clovis have been encouraged to discontinue sustained rigorous outdoor exercise/practice or games for the duration of the advisory.

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.