

News Release

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For Immediate Release

TO:

Local News and Agriculture
sections



San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

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Air District power upgrade to close office, services Farmers with burn permits affected by system upgrade

(Fresno, CA) - The Valley Air District's Fresno office will undergo electrical-system upgrades Friday, Oct. 29 that will require power to the building to be shut down. During the upgrade, all District services, including access to the web site and phone system, will be unavailable.

Valley farmers seeking authorization to burn agricultural waste Friday and Saturday are advised that the Smoke Management system will be offline at times due to the upgrade.

Holders of burn permits seeking authorization to burn Friday should call for automated assistance between 8 p.m. Thursday and 7 a.m. Friday, and for live assistance between 6 and 7 a.m. Friday. The ag-burn phone line is (800) 665-2876.

The Smoke Management system will resume normal operation as soon as power is restored. The upgrade might leave the system offline until noon on Saturday, and burns won't be authorized until the system is back online. Burns can only be initiated with express authorization and a valid burn permit. Violators can be fined.

While the Smoke Management system is down, calls to the line will ring without answer.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern. For general assistance, contact the nearest Air District office in Modesto at (209) 557-6400, in Fresno at (559) 230-6000 and in Bakersfield at (661) 326-6900. Air District offices are closed Friday, Oct. 29 due to an alternative flex work schedule.

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